




Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing Compilation of Public Comment

August 2, 2016 - April 16, 2017





Public Comment

The Bellevue community has sent in a wide range of questions and feedback regarding the Eastside Men’s Shelter. Hundreds of written comments have been submitted to the City, providing both support and opposition for locating a shelter in the Eastgate community. The public outreach has included contacts to surrounding businesses, stakeholder briefings, community meetings, and oral testimony at City Council meetings.

Updated information is posted on the city website, <http://bellevuewa.gov/eastside-mens-shelter.htm>

This public comment is a record of the public input to date from 08-01-16 to 04-16-17.

Table of Contents

Stakeholder Engagement and Public Meetings	p. 3
September 29, 2016 Community Meeting Minutes	p. 4-7
October 29 Community Meeting Minutes	p. 8-10
Stakeholder Briefing Minutes	p. 11-20
Compilation of Written Comments Received 08-01-2016 to 04-16-2017	p. 21-316
Oral Communications at Council Meetings 08-01-2016 to 03-20-2017	p. 317-332
Submitted: “Residents Against Eastside Men’s Shelter” Petition	attachment

Stakeholder Engagement & Public Meetings

Stakeholder Briefings

7/29 – 8/15	Door to Door Outreach to Businesses/Faith Communities
8/22	Sunset Community Association Board
8/31	Harmony Condominium Residents
9/7	Eastgate Neighbors
9/9	Urban Renaissance
9/20	King Co. Metro Leadership
9/22	Madrona Condo Board
9/22	Sunset Ridge Condo Board
9/26	Bellevue College Leadership
9/28	Intellectual Ventures
10/5	Eastgate Public Health Staff
10/20	Eastside Christian Parents
10/20	Bellevue College Student Meeting

Public Meetings

8/1	Council Study Session
9/14	Planning Commission Briefing
9/29	Community Meeting Champion Centre
10/4	Human Services Commission Briefing
10/8	Youth Link Board Retreat
10/27	Community Meeting Champion Center
11/28	Council Study Session
4/3	Council Study Session

Media and Postings

8/2	News Release: City and County propose men's shelter in Bellevue
9/1	Neighborhood News (1900 subscribers)
9/15	Next Door Post: Community Meetings 9/29 and 10/27 (Citywide)
9/21	News Release: Community Meeting for Men's Shelter Site 9/29
9/22	Bellevue Reporter: Community Meeting for Men's Shelter
10/1	Neighborhood News (1900 subscribers)
10/15	It's Your City Article (mailed to all City residents)
10/21	Next Door Post: Men's Shelter Meeting 10/27 (Citywide)
10/26	King 5 News: Bellevue plans for First Permanent Shelter
10/30	King 5 News: Bellevue's First permanent shelter could open by 2019
11/1	Seattle Times: Thank You Bellevue for Stepping up for Homeless
11/2	Bellevue Reporter: Eastgate Residents Draw Issues with Proposed Mens Shelter
11/14	Seattle Times: Battle Brews in Bellevue over Sheltering the Homeless
11/21	Kiro TV: Neighbors Fight Proposed Homeless Shelter
11/23	Next Door Post: 11/28 Council Briefing (Citywide)
11/30	Bellevue Reporter: Police Release Data Regarding Eastgate Homeless Shelter
12/11	Seattle Times: Eastside Communities Stepping up Efforts to Help the Homeless
4/5	Seattle Times: In Bellevue, worries that homeless shelter would bring crime, Seattle 'scourge'
4/5	Seattle Times: Bellevue needs to go from talking about a homeless shelter to getting it built

**Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing
Community Meeting
September 29, 2016
Meeting Summary**

On September 29th, 2016, Neighborhood Outreach hosted the first Community meeting regarding the Eastside Men's Shelter in Eastgate with approximately 100 people in attendance. There was a panel presentation by the City, Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing. The presentation was followed by a time for public comment and Q&A. The questions ranged in topics from Homelessness on the Eastside, Shelter and Day Center Operations, Siting Process, Coordination with Eastgate Plan, Outreach, and Crime and Safety. A complete list of the questions received is included below.

The public comments included both residents opposed to the siting of the Men's Shelter in Eastgate at this location, as well as, residents appreciative of the leadership of the City to serve the homeless men on the Eastside.

Nearby residents raised a number of concerns:

There were general questions about the siting process and the outreach. What other locations were considered in Bellevue? Why not keep it where it currently exists? Are there any other options being explored? Residents asked for more transparency in the site selection process. They also asked for more outreach to be done with Bellevue College and the commuters at Eastgate P&R.

Nearby residents of Sunset Ridge, Madrona Park, Seasons at Harmony and Harmony condominiums expressed concern that they "were forgotten" in the siting process. Residents spoke about the pace of growth happening in Eastgate, including traffic concerns, Eastgate P&R operating beyond its capacity, Amazon beginning shuttling services, PSE's Energize Eastside project and Bellevue College's addition of dormitories on campus. There was a sentiment that Eastgate is experiencing too much growth, too fast.

Residents also highlighted safety concerns. This area of Eastgate is a heavily wooded neighborhood with wetlands that also provides safe places for people to walk. There were concerns about ensuring neighborhood safety when the men's shelter serves men who may be addicted to drugs or alcohol, potential sex offenders, or struggle with mental illness. Will the shelter include a needle exchange program? What about the neighboring areas around the shelter, will these areas see an increase in crime, loitering, litter, or unpermitted encampments?

Additionally, residents identified concerns about the proximity to Bellevue College, including young students in the "Running Start" program, as well as the proximity to the Eastgate P&R with commuters using the facility at all hours. Will the police increase their presence in the community? How will the City guarantee neighborhood safety?

There were also residents who expressed a desire to not have the men's shelter located in Eastgate - but also offered their support and partnership to "make it work" for the community if it ultimately was decided to locate the shelter in Eastgate. Other residents spoke about their experience with Congregations for the Homeless and personally spoke to the safety they felt while volunteering and the competence CFH has in serving homeless men. Many encouraged those in attendance to visit the current shelters, talk to the residents and learn more about homelessness through firsthand experience. Residents commented on the necessity of the men's shelter serving a critical need on the Eastside and expressed their gratitude for the City's role in addressing homelessness in our community.

The next step in outreach will be the 2nd Community Meeting for the Men's Shelter on October 27th at the Champions Centre, 7-9pm. In this meeting, Neighborhood Outreach will report back what has been heard in sum total of the

outreach to date, as well as, work with the community to identify some possible approaches to address the primary concerns, as well as, any outstanding issues that remain unresolved.

The Panel responded to questions and comments raised by the community, including:

Homelessness

- What are the various types of shelters?
- Can homeless people sleep in Robinswood Park?
- Will this help get men out of the trees and from under the bridges?
- Will 100 beds be enough to serve all the homeless men on the Eastside? Are there other shelters for Eastside men?
- Why do they must live in Eastside? I would move north/south, wherever, when I cannot afford. That's how people end up living in different places.
- There are those in the homeless community who don't want help. I know of one man who has refused help multiple times and just wants to be left alone. Who do you handle situations like this?
- What percent of men are from Bellevue verses other cities? Seattle?
- What is the City experience with homeless? Years, Clean-ups, what can really happen?
- What is the August Wilson House?

Siting Process

- Evans Plaza near Chic-fil-a is a more appropriate site
- Downtown should be a much better place to start something like this. It is where more services area.
- What other locations were considered in Bellevue?
- What other locations have been reviewed before identifying/selecting this site?
- Why not use the winter shelter?
- Why is this site a good site for Bellevue? Location to the transit center/Park and Ride?
- What are the rationale of choosing this place (vs. Redmond or Kirkland location) – particularly for men-only shelter as opposed to women and family shelter.
- Do you think having a single men facility is wise to put next to a college? With young men and women attending?
- Why not place them in a less crowded area? This place is right next to Park & Ride where there are many commuters who want to feel safe, day and night, while they travel by foot. The place is right next to Bellevue College – the biggest college in the Eastside – where there are many young students walking outside. The place is next to many young family residents. So why not in a less populated place (for sex offenders, addicts, etc...)
- Who makes the final decision on if this site is chosen?
- What other sites are being considered if this one next to Bellevue College isn't chosen?
- What commitments is the City, City Council, police going to give this community?
- Can we place a temporary shelter in this location to see if it's a good fit with commuters, college students, P&R and neighborhood?

Eastgate Land Use Plan

- Why was it not considered in the Eastgate CAC?
- How has this site selection process been coordinated with the redevelopment planned in Eastgate? The area may be low density commercial today, but I seem to recall this area being targeted for a mix of high density residential and commercial use. Are these uses compatible? Will this hamper the revitalization effort?
- Eastgate is not really a gateway is it?

- I'm fine with having the facility here. My concern is that many areas of the City, County and Sound transit have great plans for this area around I-90/Eastgate. Who is coordinating these various plans? Including ST3, TOD, Mens Shelter/Supportive Housing, Mountain to Sound Trail, and rezoning of associated business areas).
- Eastgate P&R is already at capacity. What is the plan to expand accommodating the increase in need?

Budget

- Who is paying for the cost of the building? Taxpayers or private funds
- Sound Transit bought the former shelter site. What has their contribution to the shelter been?

Shelter Operations

- Do you know where these men are from? I.e. Bellevue, Redmond, Eastside, Seattle, Washington – or new arrivals to the area.
- What percent of residents of the Eastgate shelter do you estimate will come from Bellevue verses other cities? Will Seattle's homeless be housed in Eastgate?
- What kind of men will be using the shelter?
- What are the barriers or requirements for someone to be admitted to the shelter?
- What are the rules? If they break the rules, what happens?
- Best level of graduation – even compared to UGM and Salvation Army?
- What about the people who don't follow the rules?
- Are mentally ill clients required to get treatment?
- Are drug addicts required to get addiction recovery services?
- If they are drunk or on drugs, will they be denied entry? If so, where will they go and will they be left to wander?
- Are they going to be drug testing and keeping an eye on the alcohol?
- Can men be "using" in the shelter?
- Will this be considered for second King County city for "Safe Use"?
- Once in for the evening, can they leave it during the night?
- What happens when an individual is turned away for any reason? Refusal to show ID, failed background check? What is the protocol now when this happens?
- Are any of the "residents" pan handlers?
- Will men be hanging around – like Union Gospel Mission or Westlake?
- How much bus usage do you expect from the shelter population?
- Is there a limit to how long someone can stay without taking steps to end his homelessness?
- Does this new shelter combine the EWS of the permanent shelter? Or the EWS of the Day Center?
- What services will be available for women and children as part of this investment?
- Curious why there are separate women/men/family shelters. Why not all together? Is this related to safety?
- How will a permanent shelter benefit homeless men?
- How will it benefit the community to have the permanent co-located shelter and day center?

Day Center

- Is the Day-Center on premises? Will it be drop-in? What will it be like?
- Since the Day Center is closed and the new facility is years away from opening, what is the interim plan?

Supportive Housing

- Will this Imagine Housing Project be solely for transition housing for user for the Men's Shelter?
- Will there be both shelter and permanent housing? How many permanent residents?
- Is the housing supposed to be transitional? Is there a limit on how long someone can stay?
- Could you build the building over the parking?

- Could the Park and Ride supplement lost parking if you build the building over the parking lot?
- Is this going to be a permanent residence type facility?

Crime and Safety

- What security concerns should the neighborhood be concerned about based on history?
- What do Bellevue Police think of this plan and location? Would like to hear directly from them and would like to hear the pros and cons from their perspective.
- Has Bellevue been in contact with others that know the real issues that come from the homeless, things like murder, rape, robbery, theft?
- Have you seen increases in crime or litter where the shelters are?
- How will police help when more homeless are attracted to the area?
- The areas around the Seattle Union Gospel Mission is NOT what we want. How can we be assured that this won't happen?
- Who is going to be policing?
- Clients will not be permitted to loiter in the neighborhood. How does this process work? What is the neighborhood? Who monitors loitering? What happens when a client is loitering?
- How will you handles illegal encampments? With this heavily wooded neighborhood, will you be searching all of our wooded areas daily?
- The Park & Ride is already stinky and experiences car break-ins. How will the police keep the community safe?
- How do you plan to keep crime down or from not happening at all?
- How can you guarantee that the residents will not accost people living near by or walk past the shelter?
- There are > 200 units (single families) right next to this site, not to mention the Bellevue College Dormitory with forieng students. How can they be protected?
- If the project moves forward, could there be a community police substation in Eastgate like the one at Crossroads?

Outreach

- What have the surrounding businesses said about their proposed new neighbors?
- What is Bellevue College's reaction?
- Have the P&R community been informed of this proposal? They are a significant stakeholder community with 1600 stalls.
- Who on the stage shares as much concern as some in your audience? Who represents people who are opposed?

Next Steps

- This public input provided additional questions and input that will continue to shape the understanding of the impacts of the Eastgate site location, as well as, inform the site design and mitigation efforts that would be recommended to address community concerns and safeguard the health and safety of the entire community.
- The City will provide an updated FAQ sheet with written responses to the most frequently asked questions.
- The second Community Meeting will occur on October 27th, Champion Center, from 7-9pm.

**Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing
2nd Community Meeting: Workshop
Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2016**

On October 27th, The City hosted the second Community Meeting regarding the Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing project at the Champions Centre, 2649 145th Place SE, with over 170 residents in attendance. Mayor Stokes provided opening remarks. The meeting provided an overview of the project by Congregations for the Homeless. Dan Stroh, Planning Director, shared about why the location in Eastgate and partnership with King County, scored high in the criteria evaluated for finding a suitable home for the Eastside Men's Shelter. Mike McCormick Huentelman, Neighborhood Outreach Manager, provided an overview of public comment to date - and community residents also shared their perspectives and concerns about the Eastgate location for the project.

The community expressed concerns about the Men's Shelter being a "low barrier" shelter. They also felt frustrated that they were hearing about this for the first time and that the time frame for public outreach was rushed. There were questions raised about the impact of the shelter on neighborhood safety, Bellevue College, and the Eastgate Park and Ride. The community wanted the remainder of the meeting for Questions and Answers, and as a result, a panel of city staff, Congregations for the Homeless, Bellevue College, and Bellevue Police responded to community questions. A video of the full community meeting is available at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/eastside-mens-shelter.htm>

Written Comments Received

- Thank you Bellevue for being willing to stand up and address the issue of a permanent men's shelter.
- We have safety concern for building this shelter close to our house. Will City Council listen to our input?
- I support low barrier shelter. There is no such thing as a person not fit for housing or shelter. The arguments against low-barrier appear to categorize people as either deserving or not deserving of a safe place to stay. Safety is of utmost importance for neighbors and for residents at the shelter. This is true in all neighborhoods. This is also an issue of race and equity. Screening for criminal records disproportionately impacts black men.
- I strongly support this project and the need for low-barrier shelter and housing on the Eastside as we do every other part of King County. Any site will face opposition, but the need is too significant. It is possible to address neighborhood safety AND provide critical shelter to those on the street without a place to go. There are already people living on the streets in Bellevue; this is a huge step in addressing that need. We need low-barrier shelter to ensure people are faced with viable options that meet their needs without unnecessary preconditions to getting off the street.
- May answers seemed totally tone-deaf. The feedback the residents is the community outreach is F-grade. There is no mention of this in the Bellevue newsletter although there was news of a new communications lead. We need time for spirited debate on this matter that engages community.
- This is an election issue. This passes, you're out.
- I am appalled at the lack of transparency in the entire process. The homeless shelter discussion has been going on 2-3 years, the Eastgate I-90 CAC took place 2010-12, the planning commission reviewed and developed the LUCA for Eastgate from 2013-16 and the first they heard of it was August 2016. This is not just a lack of transparency, it is a bold obstruction of public process and information, it is SHAMEFUL! Stokes and Balducci should resign!
- You could not say "Yes" or "no" to the project being a done deal. Then why did Lori Matsukawa just come out and say on the news that "there will be a men's shelter at Eastgate" and she showed the location/site. This sounds like a done deal to me, especially since it comes out on the news when the residents of this area do not even know what is going on!

- For the homeless shelter, there should be a rigorous program that ensures the resident will get on to their feet in short-time. There must be some hard limit on how long they can stay in the shelter so that they will be motivated to get back to normal life. We should gather as much information about residents as possible so that we can track them or identify them if needed. They should not be allowed to vote if their ID can't be verified.
- THANK YOU for the work you are doing to house our vulnerable community members. Everyone deserves a safe, stable, warm place to sleep at night (and live during the day). Keep it up!
- Please post the video of this workshop.
- Suggestion: Set the shelter in a boat and set the boat into the lake at night.
- More sites need to be evaluated. Do not limit search to sites publically owned. Pay money to buy the right site.
- I think the hard deadline to conclude this process by the 1st quarter of 2017 is a big mistake due to you did not give public enough time to comment. You cannot do it based on your schedule or interests. You work for Bellevue residents!
- As a frequent user of the Eastgate P&R and the increase in prowling occurances - I'm going to be more reluctant to use this public transportation with the shelter so close.
- I would like to see the data and reports that I understand were done to help determine why this location has been chosen.
- The Communications have been exceedingly poor. The new FAQ is appreciated but has been a long time coming. Transparency has been poor. Outreach to inform the community has been poor.
- My mum uses the park and ride. Will you have an personal escort to take people to their cars? - Andrew, age 8
- Attending this meeting, it is very clear the public wants more involvement. The "break-out" sessions are great - but I think there would be many more meetings that host each breakout subgroup - a meeting for each focus group and much better communication with the public.
- I feel very unsafe for my children, especially daughters, to be around the neighborhood and go to school at Bellevue College if there will be so many strange men near their school.
- The TOD is being promoted as a benefit for the shelter residents. There needs to be a realization that it will make it very easy for men to get from Seattle to Bellevue. There should be an entry criteria that it is for Eastside people. That may be hard to do - impossible to prove - but that's the problem - Bellevue is going to be a magnet for problems. Remember, King County's Plan to End Homelessness is in its 20th year!
- Dan Stroh's comments about not having single family residents close by was very misleading and undermines the credibility of everything else we were told. If everything is so safe, why did Dan Stroh say it should not be next to a school? The City knows it is not safe and is not being straightforward.
- I am a public health employee. I used to work at Eastgate and am too familiar with the parking issues at this facility (between clients, PH Fleet parking, and employees, there is not enough space there currently.) Now I work downtown and take transit while parking at the P&R. If I don't get there early enough it is full! Already overflow vehicles create their own spots in clearly marked "No Parking" areas. This is just one small part of a much bigger issue, but using the parking lot for any other building on this site will create major inconvenience for employees of Public Health (we aren't in it for the money!) AND the people we serve.
- Needed Facility - Lousy Location.
- A disadvantage of being this close to a major P&R and transit hub is that it creates a beeline for men from Seattle to the Eastside.
- The lack of transparency in this process is appalling!!
- There are about at least 3 pre-schools, 3 elementary school, 3 middle school, 2 high school, 1 college in this large neighborhood. We want to help the 100 homeless men, but it doesn't mean we have to change so many residents lifestyle because of this shelter (have to leave work early to pick up kids from bus stop, limit kids biking on street in neighborhood in summer, register ADT home security system with monthly bill...)
- Please stop moving toward with shelter project until voice of local communities are heard and addressed!

Questions Submitted:

- Who pays for the clean up of an encampment after the campers leave if it is a private resident land? Is the City paying?
- What if you can't work with the community to make it work? Then what?
- Have you considered other shelter sites? What are the comparisons?
- What data shows the Eastgate P&R should be the better site?
- What is the distinction with the failed programs in Seattle - where there is a real negative impact on the surrounding neighborhoods? Why is that not addressed by the panels?
- Why does the Bellevue City Council continue to surprise the neighborhoods with decisions made behind closed doors?
- So, we have heard that one of the options for the site selection is near the Eastgate Solid Waste Facility. How come the County choose not to put the well being of the residents of the community over the interests of the County?
- Why do we need to have a shelter in the Bellevue Eastgate at all? Couldn't the government support these men by putting them in Section 8 or other forms of public funded housing arrangements?
- How come we were not told about this plan until now?
- I want to know what does procedurally take to cancel this project (stop it from happening in Eastgate P&R area). Thank you!
- How will this fit into the big rezone project of housing and offices? How do the potential developers feel about the project?
- Why not build a shelter right next to City Hall on the vacant lot?
 - No wooded area for encampments
 - No residential area
 - Police department is next door
 - Shelter is 24/7 and police are 24/7
 - Transit is close by
 - No school close by
 - Have you considered this?
- What security is being planned for the Eastgate Park & Ride? Will there be a security guard present, especially at night? How will this security be funded? Is the funding going to be secured before this project is finalized?

**Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing
Stakeholder Briefing Notes - Sunset Community Association
August 24, 2016**

Attending: Lindy Bruce, Filip Lazar, Tim Williams, Mark Brinton, Irina Brinton, Dick Morris, Gary Kline

Staff: Mike McCormick Huentelman, Camron Parker, David Bowling (CFH), Dwight Jackson (CFH)

Major issues of concern:

The area already has concerns regarding campers in Kesley Creek Park

Overflow of campers

Proximity to Bellevue College (Dorms being built)

Proximity to Condos

Use of Park and Ride at night - safety concerns

Wooded areas - not lighted

Can't just throw resources and expect results.

Staff responded to the following questions:

Questions asked:

How tall of a building will it be?

Who is building the building?

Will it be a year round shelter?

What is a low-barrier shelter?

Will there be something like the Therapeutic Health Services here?

What is the current Bellevue homeless population?

What happens when more people want to get in? What happens when it is over capacity?

Will people be loitering in the area like Pioneer Square?

What are the criteria being used to determine "success"?

Do you publish crime statistics?

What measures or statistics do you have from other places where you have operated?

Do you keep people in at night?

Where does the funding come from?

Should you do an analysis of cost per tax-payer?

Do you have plans to assess impact on surrounding property values?

What created the Jungle in Seattle?

Is there a cap on the number of homeless men sheltered?

What does it mean it's a regional issue?

Is this the only location being considered?

How many homeless take classes at Bellevue College?

Is it first come, first served?

Do you have metrics? How long do they stay homeless?

How do you deal with someone causing repeated issues?

Is Bellevue a sanctuary city?

What is the community engagement process moving forward?

Gave out packets on project as well as flyers for community meetings.

**Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing
Stakeholder Briefing Notes - Harmony Condominiums
August 31, 2016**

Attending: Julia Tai, Mike Moberly, Nina MacGarva, Bozena Lloyd, Jack Newman, Rosemary Richardson, Bruce McClelland, Yunsun Jung, Galina Manashirova, Jun Lin, Danny Wong, Bide Hu, TC Chen, Woo Jung, Molin Lo
Staff: Mike McCormick Huentelman, Camron Parker, Dwight Jackson (CFH), Julie Ellenhorn, Kiser (Lotus)

Major issues of concern:

Safety and security (crime)
Sex offenders - #1 threat is sexual assault
Park and Ride - safety
Impact on Property Values
Once men leave the shelter, you can't control them.
Harmony is a quiet community. Concern about property crime/break ins as crimes of opportunity.
Personal safety
Our concern is REAL - 2005 incident of rape/murder on trail.
How do we control who is coming to our neighborhood?

Suggestions:

Establish police precinct on site.
Suggest City commit resources for regular patrols.
King County needs to upgrade P&R Facilities (lighting, surveillance cameras, etc)
Possibly fence Harmony community?
Do not sacrifice surrounding neighborhoods for the shelter.
Education on homelessness is needed.

Staff responded to the following questions asked by the Harmony residents...

Questions asked:

Are you assuming that crime won't happen to us? What about our security?
Do you know if they are sex offenders?
Can you provide statistics in other neighborhoods?
Who is there?
What kind of screening is involved? Are there special safeguards to reduce risk?
Who is screened out? Where do they go?
Will you have an officer on duty?
What do you do with overflow?
How are you going to prevent what is happening in Seattle & Pioneer Square? (tents, overflow, loitering etc).
Will King County Park & Ride upgrade their facilities? (Their cameras do not work, lights are dark, etc).
What are the procedures for sex offenders? Mental health issues?
What about Bellevue College? Already have issues with students and drug use.
How is this funded?
Are you considering other sites?
How many units for housing? What are the criteria for the clientele for the apartments?
What kind of assessment has the City done? Why is this the best location?
What about the other potential sites - what were the pro/con of other locations?

**Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing
Stakeholder Briefing Notes - Eastgate
September 7th 2016**

Attending: Michelle Wannamaker, Linda NoHavoc

Staff: Mike McCormick Huentelman, Steve Roberts (CFH)

Major issues of concern:

Alignment with Eastgate Land Use - TOD

Addition of Day Center will attract more homeless men to Eastgate

Wooded area would provide good places to camp

Central problem with notification of public

Land Use based on old studies - need to look at cumulative impact on traffic

Suggestions:

Improve Outreach for Community; Boards at King County P&R, Media Coverage, etc.

Need much more police presence

Surrounding neighborhood associations need to be notified

Staff responded to the following questions asked by Eastgate residents...

Questions asked:

Who was on the committee to review potential sites?

How did they evaluate the sites?

Are there two schools of thought regarding the Eastgate TOD area?

What is the density that you are looking at?

How many total beds - what do you envision?

Are you getting impact fees from the rest of new development?

How will it be funded?

Could you get a public announcement on this on TV?

Would shelter bring in more people?

What is the parking ratio?

Do you expect to eliminate 60% of forest in land use?

What about the old Park and Ride site?

How much does this cost per unit?

**Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing
Stakeholder Briefing Notes - Sunset Ridge Condominiums
September 22, 2016**

Attending: Silvia Wilson, Carl Hung, Matt Williams, Sid Golestane, Brian Hartman (HOA Board)

Staff: Julie Ellenhorn, COB, David Bowling, CFH

Major issues of concern:

Increased crime

Neighborhood safety

Men wandering onto condo property

Property values.

Julie and David reviewed siting and operations and answered specific questions asked below:

Questions asked:

Will homeless possibly attend Bellevue College?

Are there sex offenders?

What does low barrier mean?

What kind of training does staff have?

Will there be people trying to park on Sunset Ridge property?

Is a petition an effective means of letting City know we don't want shelter here?

Julie talked about future public engagement. Recommended attending public meetings and emailing individual comments as most effective methods of voicing opposition or support for project.

Gave out packets on project as well as flyers for community meetings.

**Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing
Stakeholder Briefing Notes - Seasons at Madrona
September 22nd, 2016**

Attending: Lisa Leitner, Hyon Moon, Albert Hsia, Yoshi Okumura, Nik Lichtchouk, Alex Guretsky, Carol Janssen, Austin Lo
Staff: Mike McCormick Huentelman, Dwight Jackson (CFH)

Major issues of concern:

Saturn Ring Effect = Overflow of homeless men in surrounding neighborhood
Increase of unpermitted camping
Increase in transients in community
Increase of Crime
Not concerned about men in shelter - but ones you turn away that tent in the woods.

Suggestions:

Need staffing to increase for Bellevue Police - they are understaffed
Have public disclosure with nearby neighbors re: sex offenders
Report to community on # homeless that transition out of homelessness
Increase patrol of greenbelt areas (including nearby retention pond)
Interested in participation with CFH Nearby Stakeholder Advisory Group

Observations:

We have wooded areas all around us.
Even though we are not SF homes, we need protection just as much.
Recent activity - gunshot in nearby park

Questions:

Are you considering any increase to the facility?
How many people will the day center serve?
Where do the overflow of the people go?
How are you going to patrol this area?
How do we know that this protection will be there for us?
What is the criteria for allowing men in?
What is your rate of success to move people off homelessness?
How do you train people to be independent?
Will the shelter attract homeless men from elsewhere?
Are there any statistics on crime rates - are they increasing?

**Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing
Stakeholder Briefing Notes - Intellectual Ventures
September 28, 2016**

Attending: Guy Ellas, Brian Shaw, JR Knoll, Tony Smith

Staff: Mike McCormick Huentelman, Steve Roberts (CFH), Dwight Jackson (CFH), Camron Parker

Major issues of concern:

Prime Cut-Through Activity

Poor signage for KCPH (only visible eastbound)

No solid barrier between two sites

Preserve security of facility

Clear walk paths to shelter

Avoid loitering at picnic tables on eastside of building

Suggestions:

Create physical barrier between KCPH and Intellectual Ventures

Observations:

Already doing parking management for KCPH

Looking to move to "badge-in" parking (gate)

Would work with City on easement for construction - through traffic - on eastside of building

Interested in learning more about TOD designation for area, impact on current uses.

**Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing
Stakeholder Briefing Notes - Eastgate Park and Ride
2016**

Attending: Jennifer Altnuer, Steve Cahon

Staff: Mike McCormick Huentelman, Steve Roberts (CFH), Dwight Jackson (CFH), Camron Parker, Major Kleinnecht (BPD), Kiser (Lotus), Julie Ellenhorn

Major issues of concern:

King County leases land from WSDOT

Construction Access through P&R

- Heavily used by buses (main access)

- Charging stations for electric buses

Anticipate RV's? Contingency plan?

Day Time Loitering

Car Prowls

Lighting

Increase surveillance on surface lots

Parking Management

- No on-street parking

- Need plan for construction worker parking

Suggestions:

Add emergency call boxes at bottom/top of path leading up to Bellevue College

Add cameras for surface lots

Improve lighting

Observations:

Security cameras currently only focus in garage

Contract security - respond to reported incidents

Closure of S Bellevue P&R will increase use at Eastgate P&R

Considering changes in length of stay for parking

Looking at increase in bike lockers

Electrical bus station improvements

**Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing
Stakeholder Briefing Notes - Public Health - Seattle & King County
October 5th, 2016**

Attending: All Staff Meeting for KCPH (85 staff in attendance)

Staff: Mike McCormick Huentelman, Steve Roberts (CFH), David Bowling (CFH), Camron Parker, Lisa Patricelli (BPD)

Major issues of concern:

Personal safety (arriving early or staying late) at work

Safety for Bellevue College students

Safety for clients served

Parking

Loitering

Sex Offenders

Suggestions:

Coordinate services to ensure we know who is doing what

Additional training for workplace safety

Focus on commonalities in who we serve

Observations:

Majority of employees here are women - personal safety is a natural concern for us.

Clients served are increasingly busing in/driving in

PH- Seattle & King County does not vet our patients, we could be serving sex offenders.

A friend of mine was homeless, it could be any of us.

Questions:

What is going to stop people from hanging around waiting for shelter space? Loitering in parking lot?

We have many patients that are fearful of police - how much of a visible presence will there be of police?

Do you take in military? How many from the State?

Are we going to have security for Public Health - Seattle & King County?

Are you vetting registered sex offenders?

How are you going to protect the women/children who are served here?

How do you vet people from out of state, or have no ID?

Are there other sites being considered?

**Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing
Stakeholder Briefing Notes - Bellevue College Students & Staff
October 20, 2016**

Attending: Approximately 50 students and Bellevue College staff, Ray White (BC)

Staff: Mike McCormick Huentelman, Camron Parker, Carl Kleinnecht (BPD), Steve Roberts, David Bowling, Dwight Jackson

Major issues of concern and potential partnerships:

Bellevue police are under resourced

Is Bellevue College compliant with Clery Act? Would siting a homeless men's shelter here be compliant with the Clery Act as well?

Bellevue College needs to improve safety and security protocols for all students:

- a) Documentation of process to report
- b) Rape kits
- c) Notification re: sexual offenders

Multiple areas of campus where cell coverage does not exist

Homeless in library in winter times

Opportunities for service learning for BC students

How can we aid or collaborate together with LGBTQ campus community?

Please provide homeless men an address/mailbox - to help with employment.

There is no Orca machine at Eastgate Park and Ride

Proximity to KCPH and clients of domestic violence they serve. Will the men cause these women to avoid accessing the services they need?

Need a notification process for the surrounding community on sex offenders.

Questions asked:

Is this a winter or year-round shelter?

What age range does it start at?

What time is curfew? Are there any exceptions given?

Are your staff trained to serve non-conforming men or transgender men?

Can shelter staff support homeless on BC college libraries?

Can you look at best practices for shelters near college campuses?

Any projections made by campus on future enrollment if shelter is located here?

Will Bellevue College contact Running Start parents to inform them of this shelter in area?

How many men will the shelter serve?

How long can they stay in the shelter?

Will the men set up tent encampments in the surrounding area?

Do you provide storage for men?

What does it mean to be "low barrier"?

Is there a model in another city to point to for success?

Do you anticipate RV's or homeless living in their cars around the shelter?

Do you take people with prior violent crime offenses?

How will you partner with Bellevue College campus security and Bellevue police?

**Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing
Stakeholder Briefing Notes - Eastside Christian Church
October 20, 2016**

Attending: Approximately 15 parents, Mark Migliore (principal)

Staff: Mike McCormick Huentelman, Camron Parker, Carl Kleinknecht (BPD), Steve Roberts (CFH)

Major issues of concern:

Bellevue College has 30,000 students, young and mostly female

Site is 17 minute walk to Eastside Christian School and every child in this school.

We have had car prowls, vandalism, etc. - that is why we have built the fence and have our own security.

Shelter would provide magnet for more homeless to come here.

Only takes one bad apple.

Moved here from Portland - and witnessed the rise of downtown homeless population blossoming with the building of Bud Clark Commons. It broke down the trust compact with surrounding community.

We are conflicted, we want to care for the homeless and protect the safety of our children.

This is not the right site.

Questions asked:

What is going to be done from 8am-5pm to respond and keep this area safe?

What years were operated at St Andrews?

What are the rules/criteria for the men served?

Can someone show up drunk, high or carrying weapons?

What happens to the people who are not welcomed back?

Do you have a proactive plan to work to reduce crime in this area?

What does the data tell us about crime around shelters in previous locations?

What will you do to maintain the trust compact with the surrounding community? After a few years, will your commitments be forgotten?

Would you be able to allocate more police officers to the area?

Are there any other locations being discussed?

What were the criteria?

Do you know about the closest elementary schools in the area? Day care centers?

Extended offer to schedule another stakeholder briefing meeting at a time when more parents could attend.

**Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing
Compilation of Written Comments
8-02-2016 - 1-31-2017**

8/2/2016

I am a home owner within 2 miles of the proposed site of a men's homeless shelter. The pamphlets note that this is not a residential area, however, residential areas, parks, trails as well as preschools, Bellevue College and primary and secondary schools are within a short walk's distance. Not to mention all the wooded areas and parks where homeless men will be attracted to loiter and camp once their stay has reached it's limit in the shelter. The shelter is planned room for 100 but how many will end up in the wooded areas once their stay has reached their limit (90 days or less, I assume)? So every 90 days 100 more homeless men could end up in the wooded areas along the Bellevue trails and in the Bellevue parks? My family and I can walk the wooded trails and use Robinswood park in relative safety, currently, and I don't think that will be the case within 5 years time of having a men's shelter built at the proposed site. How do we know that homeless men at the facility (or attracted by the facility and living in the wooded areas) do not have a history of committing crimes and are not willing to commit violent crimes against residents and students or bring in an influx of drugs and theft? Are the potential residents being background screened for sex offenders; and what about homeless sex offenders who are screened and rejected and end up camping in the wooded areas? Bellevue College is just behind the proposed site: students, (including young high school girls/boys doing Head Start) need to safely be able to get from their cars to the externally accessed school buildings and back to their cars. One only has to look at the King County Court house area situation in Seattle to get a taste for what having a men's homeless shelter in the area will look like. It seems potentially disastrous to have this situation so close to schools, parks and residences.

I know that the city currently has homeless people, but "If you build it, they will come". More homeless than ever will be attracted to our south Bellevue residential area and I'll wager none or very few of them are tax paying citizens. Are there further meetings planned? I was unable to attend yesterday's meeting.

Mauren Olsen

8/2/2016

Sooooo where do I go to strongly disagree with this shelter
Erika

8/3/2016

I think it's wonderful that Bellevue is working on setting up a permanent men's shelter. It sounds like the location has been thoroughly thought through and will provide excellent access and services for those who use the shelter.

Can I be added to the email list for alerts on this project?

Thank you!

-Shannon Ladymon

8/3/2016

Please add me to the interested parties list for the Eastgate project.

I am thrilled that my city is committed to making this project a reality.

It is much needed and the just thing to do!

Leslie R. Miller

8/4/2016

I have quite a few concerns about the shelter and would like to be included in future updates and communications regarding the issue.

Stef Storseth

8/11/2016

I know it is difficult to place a homeless shelter where ever it maybe; however, in the pdf it mentions that the shelter is to be placed in a non-residential are of Eastgate. The location chosen is anything but non-residential. Just because there is an office building and a college does not mean that it is non-residential. There are condos right at the 4-way stop sighs and also another community just neighboring it. In addition there's a school within walking distance to it. This area is anything but non-residential. By putting in a Men's shelter you not only create security issues for students but residents alike accessing the P&R. I would be afraid to walk my kids to the bus stop as we often will do. Please carefully consider this proposed development.

Amy

(Addition)

Thank you Mike for your reply. Yes, I would like to be kept in the loop. By the way, have you considered the area between Northrup and Belred? Isn't that where the light rail will be and it's at least an area in Bellevue I know that's more concentrated with businesses.

Amy

8/12/2016

Please add me to the "interested parties list" referred to on this webpage:

<http://bellevuewa.gov/eastside-mens-shelter.htm>

How does one submit questions or comments?

I am a 20+ year Bellevue resident who shops, banks and walks in the Eastgate area. My house is in walking distance of the park & ride and I have attended classes at Bellevue College.

Melissa Harp

8/16/2016

My name is Woo Jung, and I am currently a resident of Harmony at Madrona, a townhome community located near Bellevue College on 2680 139th Ave SE. I'm writing today to express my displeasure with the city council's decision to site a permanent men's shelter.

I have read through the FAQ section (http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/pdf/Parks/mens_homeless_shelter_FAQs.pdf), but I am not convinced at all that the city needs to site a homeless shelter near the eastgate park and ride.

In the faq, the following item was listed as the first factor taken into consideration:

- Avoid single family residential areas.

I am very surprised that the city council only considered "SINGLE FAMILY" residential area, instead of "residential areas", because the planned location is situated very close to the entrance of a neighboring townhome community. I do not believe the city council performed enough investigation of the surrounding area because over 280 households in the nearby townhome communities seem to be overlooked by the city. I believe that the city should treat the residents of single family homes and townhomes the same when evaluating a potential location for a project like this.

I hope the city council will re-evaluate the project carefully and make decisions in the interest of Eastgate residents, as well as the city of Bellevue as a whole. I will be following the project closely and attending any hearing in the future.

Woo

8/16/2016

I, as a nearby resident, am writing to express the concern over the location of the proposed shelter.

As I quote from http://bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Parks/mens_homeless_shelter_FAQs.pdf, "The site is located in a non-residential area of Eastgate in Bellevue, just north of I-90 ..." The statement is incorrect. The site is within 5 minutes walking distance from 230+ residential townhome households, as well as Bellevue College where student residences are being built. In fact this statement also contradicts "5. Why here?" section in the very same document, which states one factor of consideration is to "Avoid **single family residential** areas."

This section actually tells us that the location is actually residential. It's just not a single family residential area. So, really, what is this document trying to tell us? Townhomes are not considered residential to Bellevue, or only single family residences matter? The fact that a single document includes contradicting statement is disappointing and reek of information obfuscation on the disclosure.

Have the community meetings been scheduled?

I will also be writing to Bellevue City Council.

Thanks for reading this far.

Philip

8/20/2016

I was proud of our city when I read in the [Bellevue Reporter](#) of the Council's support for an Eastgate area homeless shelter and services center. My family has lived in Somerset since 1999. As members of Bellevue Christian Reformed Church, we support Congregations for the Homeless and our attendees and members who have vulnerable housing situations. As a long-term volunteer, board member and current board president of Seattle's [Operation Nightwatch](#), I have been active and interested in the challenges of supporting individuals who need shelter and other services. Please let me know how I can become more informed and participate in the conversation at the appropriate time.

Mari Broman Olsen

8/29/2016

Thank you for your time last Wednesday.

It was an informative meeting.

Mike since you are the neighborhood outreach manager you should be aware of this incident 9 or so years ago.

I remember it. It happened on or close to the king county property where the homeless shelter will go.

The neighbors in that area will likely remember this. As well the 4 now older children of the victim.

So be aware so you don't get blindsided by this.

There have to be measures in place to assure residents and students that this shelter will not attract this element. That has to be a city of Bellevue responsibility.

Gary Kline

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/transient-sentenced-to-26-years-for-murder/>

8/29/2016

Glad you found this, Gary.

I remembered the attack, but couldn't remember the timeline. Also, a couple of weeks ago, a woman was attacked while running near Marymoor Park. Fortunately, a passerby helped her, but the attacker got away. It has been conjectured that he was a transient.

If you read the Saturday Seattle Times, you saw the front-page article about Seattle's low-barrier shelter/apartments where King County and Seattle want to create a "safe-use area" for using drugs on premises. It would be the first of its kind in the country.

That is not acceptable at Eastgate. I'm not favorably disposed to a low-barrier all-male shelter, either.

It's not at all clear to me what sway we have on this; it looks like they hope to pacify us, not listen to us.

Lindy Bruce

8/29/2016

We could let the facts speak for themselves.

Gather all info on attacker.

Was he here legally?

I am still troubled by the fact that Mike didn't collect metrics or citizenship info and any customers. According to a 2009 GAO report we spend \$1.5 billion annually housing illegals in our state and federal prisons. the GAO says they are mostly from Mexico. They are clearly more likely to commit crimes according to the GAO. So it would be prudent to know who everyone is. So Mike can exclude those people. Did he use the services at that east gate location?

Contact the mother of Cassandra and let her know to see if she has any opinion.

Ask her if Cassandra's daughters want to weigh in on this proposed shelter.

Talk with Bellevue College. I recall they were all pretty shaken at the time. See what assurances and safety guidelines they want. Maybe This has been done. ?

It boils down to knowing who your neighbors are. It's really easy to find out about all us residents in the area.

We just want to know everything about all of our new shelter neighbors. Even if it's just for a short stay.

Is that too much to ask?

Gary Kline

8/31/2016

According to the article in the paper you are putting a homeless shelter for men next to at the eastgate park and ride. As a user of this park and ride during the winter hours I come home after dark. Plus this is very close to the Bellevue College which has all sorts of classes after dark.

Tell me in your great wisdom how you managed to overlook these safety issues.

Do these shelters have inspections or rules about drug and alcohol uses?

Of course this would not have been put in place for any upscale neighborhoods...

From what I can see allot of homeless do not even clean up after themselves.

Just take a drive on the freeway and see nothing but filth.

Please address these concerns

Kathy Elmer

9/1/2016

I am a resident of Sunset Ridge Condo. Recently we have just been bombarded with all the expansion projects of Bellevue College. The most recent project is building an International Student Housing on campus. It shows that Bellevue College is preparing to admit more international students to the campus. This is a forward looking step. By doing so, not only the college can increase its revenue and promoting an international culture that blends in with Bellevue City itself. On the contrary by placing homeless people within proximity of the campus, it literary destroys the image of the college. International parents spend a lot of money to place their children on this campus will not tolerate such an environment. Speaking of homeless people, lots of them are drug addicts or recurred addicts. They need medical and psychological treatments followed by job training. Only after they become self supporting then, they can be gradually blend into normal communities. There is no shortcut.

Our community is within walking distance of your planned shelter site. Needless to say, the impact will be devastating. Instead of destroying the well established communities, Bellevue can buy the existing County's building and make the college expansion complete.

Agnes Young

9/5/2016

As an eastsider, who also uses the Eastgate Park and Ride, I am writing in support of the proposed eastside men's homeless shelter.

I support the construction of the shelter because it will be co-located with public health and social services providers. I believe that housing, without supportive services is seldom successful in helping homeless individuals improve their situations and become productive members of society.

My only concern is that it will serve only men. What are Bellevue's plans for similar facilities for women and children?

Martha Boes

9/16/2016

I am writing to you a Bellevue resident and a board member to Temple De Hirsch Sinai. I want you to know that there are people who support building a permanent men's shelter and transitional housing in Bellevue. Bellevue residents can't take a "not in my backyard" approach to this problem. We owe it to people to provide human housing options in reasonable locales. Why should homeless people be shuttled out to far out reaches or bused to city centers. Bellevue has a moral obligation to do its part and this is the right thing to do and the right time (past the right time) to do it. This location is not really in anyone's backyard, its close to centers of possible employment, services and transportation. Please do the humane, morally correct thing and continue with this project. Seattle AND the Eastside have a homeless problem and its not going to go away by ignoring it or making it someone else's problem.

Elizabeth Goertzel

9/18/2016

My name is Linda Seligman and belong to Temple De Hirsch Sinai. My husband and I had the privilege of serving a dinner meal at tent city on the Temple B'Nai Torah campus Wednesday evening . The people were very appreciative of what we did. Even though some of them worked and were saving money to move elsewhere I felt something was missing for the other people. I fully support the CFH because it has teaching tools like computers, counseling them how to live in the real world once they leave CFH. Also mental health counseling would help them boost their confidence and other issues. It would provide meals and hygiene which is very important in life. Hopefully in the near future the problem of being homeless will go away.

Again I support the CFH.

Linda Seligman

9/19/2016

My name is Tana Senn, and while I am a State Representative, I am also an Eastsider, mom and member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai. I want to share with you my full support for the men's shelter and transitional housing that is being proposed in the Eastgate area. It is important for it to be accessible, near transportation, food, jobs and other services. As you know, homelessness is a problem across our state, including in Bellevue and the Eastside. We must acknowledge homelessness in our own community and have compassion for and help take care of our fellow citizens.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Tana Senn

9/19/2016

I am writing in support of the Eastside Men's Shelter. I understand that no one wants a Homeless Shelter in their neighborhood, but this is in a non-residential area. This shelter is an organized shelter run by Congregations for the Homeless, it's not a campsite for homeless people to hang out aimlessly.

Homelessness is a HUGE problem in the Seattle area and those more fortunate should have a moral obligation to approve shelter and services to those who can't provide for themselves.

Jo Gartenberg

Bellevue resident

9/19/2016

I am a local resident and want to express my support for the establishment of the Eastside Men's Shelter proposed for SE Eastgate Way.

Homelessness exists. A lack of support services does not make it go away. As a humane community, we can focus on 2 things: preventing homelessness, and then providing safety, security, and hope when it does. While prevention is ideal, when a person has no place to sleep it is in the communities best interest to provide a place where a homeless individual can be safe and obtain services for a hopeful recovery. Those of us fortunate enough to always have a roof

over our heads should always be dedicating some of our good fortune to providing resources to those less fortunate, so that they have the foundation to prosper.

I strongly urge your continued support and implementation of the Eastside Men's Shelter.

Larry Engel

9/19/2016

I am a supporter of Congregations for the Homeless. I believe that a permanent men's shelter & transitional housing is imperative! The city of Bellevue needs to accommodate for the needs of our entire society, including homeless facilities. Please consider my support for this project.

Mrs. T Donner

9/21/2016

I am writing to tell you how pleased I am to write in support of a men's shelter and resource on the Eastside. We have for long "ignored" the need, and to have resource connections and specialists right there in Bellevue, would be a big step forward. Please do whatever you can to make this a reality.

Jerilyn Anderson

9/22/2016

As a long- time volunteer for CFH, I have been involved in remodeling of homes to house homeless men on the Eastside, designing & building 2 shower trailers to provide showers & clothes washing facilities for homeless men @ the 12 participating Bellevue churches & assisting in maintaining the Bellevue day shelter facilities. What I have witnessed in all this, is the caring & concern & help provided to each man & a real desire by CFH staff to have each man succeed in getting back on track to being a self- sufficient, productive member of society. One man told me that after experiencing a wonderful life with a wife & family & all the toys, he had lost it all through drugs & alcohol & was sleeping under a bridge. He said "Without CFH, I'd be dead right now".

I think the partnership of Bellevue & others with CFH to provide a permanent men's shelter is a wonderful mission that I believe will be very successful in lifting men out of homelessness to a better, happier & more fulfilling life.

Dave Brasher

9/22/2016

Gentlemen,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with our homeowners. Although the turnout was not what I would hope, I believe our concerns have been well represented.

It's easy for us (homeowners) to share our concerns without recourse. It's not easy for you to defend your role, your beliefs, your job, for something which we, as residents of this city, should also be accountable for - respect and dignity for all. I truly want this shelter to be a successful community partnership; looking forward to seeing how we can make this happen SAFELY. Please let me know how I can help.

Lisa Leitner

9/23/2016

My name is Norma Rosenthal and I have heard about the permanent men's shelter and transitional housing that Congregations for the Homeless is working to build in Bellevue. It would be situated near my place of worship, Temple De Hirsch Sinai's eastside campus. I would heartily like to endorse this proposed shelter. Our congregation has partnered with CFH many times in the past and I would like to let you know that I support this effort for its human, religious and moral value.

Norma Rosenthal

9/23/2016

I am most supportive of the proposed Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing for the following reasons:
Location. The proposed location at 14350 SE Eastgate Way is probably the best possible eastside location. It is next to a regional transit facility that gives the men great bus access to the shelter, family, services and employment. In the 10/23/12 study of men's shelter needs attached, the conclusion then was almost identical with the best location for a men's shelter then being located on vacant King County land immediately west of the transit facility in SE Eastgate Way. Having a men's shelter not in a residential zoned area, preferably in a business zoned area and with good transit access were also key preferred locational criteria in 2012.

Collocation of needs. It is best to have a men's shelter that collocates the needs of a winter shelter, day center, transitional center, apartment housing, case management, counseling services, regional services, dining, kitchen, laundry and showers. Having all this in one location reduces the space needed for similar facilities and simplifies administration. Having King County Public Health located there is an added asset. Is it worth also considering the collocation of at least some other agencies similar to the Redmond "Togetherness Center" for fifty agencies? The 10/23/12 study of men's shelter needs attached shows the estimated space needs for the preferred collocated men's facilities at that time.

Administration. Having the Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) administer the needs of men in this facility is excellent. They have the experience and are very responsive to community needs around their facilities. In 2012 CFH administered the Men's Winter Shelter at St Peters Church on NE 8th Street. The community members and police met CFH staff in numerous meetings to discuss initial problems with the shelter. CFH staff were immediately most responsive to incidents and solving problem areas. From these meetings CFH revised their operating policies, monitoring and their code of conduct for the men to follow. This relieved many neighborhood concerns but also highlighted why a men's winter shelter in a residential area without frequent reliable bus service (none on snow days) was best avoided. The above mentioned 10/23/12 study (only its last two pages on men's shelter needs is attached) was derived from numerous neighborhood meetings. It was authored by Steve Roberts of CFH, Joanne Pottier (our Lochmoor neighborhood's Block Watch Captain) and myself (local retired consulting engineering VP, Public Works Director and Deputy City Manager) . We also had meetings at that time to with many City of Bellevue staff that included Emily Leslie and Paul Inghram. I am pleased to find that most of these men's shelter needs we presented to Bellevue staff in 2012 is now in the implementation process.

Philip D. Keightley

9/23/2016

I was so pleased to hear that Bellevue is committing to building a *permanent* shelter for homeless people, as well as supportive housing. It's been a real struggle to find suitable sites each season, and the total number of homeless folks is way too high. Thank you for all of your work to get this project off the ground.

Tiane Reid

9/23/2016

My name is Sid Golestane and I'm the president of the home owner association of Sunset Ridge which is right up the street from the proposed location of the homeless shelter.

Last night we discussed the homeless shelter proposal in our HOA meeting and I wanted to let you know that our community is strongly against the proposal.

I'm going to do my best to try to attend the community meeting but may not be able to make it due to family obligations. We're a community of 71 units and wanted our disagreement with the proposal to be heard.

Sid Golestane

9/23/2016

We just had a report on the work you are doing to build a new men's shelter - working with the Congregations for the Homeless and others. Thank you for doing this major job. It is certainly needed. Homeless numbers grow by the minute and most of the help seems to be too little, too late.

Our congregation supports this effort.

Anne Germain

Quaker representative on EISCC

9/27/2016

I am an enthusiastic supporter of CFH. For many years I have been involved in financial support and meal preparation for the men in the year round program and have seen the amazing results of this life changing organization. Since I retired from teaching last year I was able to devote Wednesdays to the day center until it closed in the spring. We served breakfast and lunch to at least 65 guys a day and provided a place for showers, laundry, and connection to support services etc. Most poignant for me was when I was able to serve past students---- have recognized at least 3 who are now being served by CFH. I encourage enthusiastic support of the permanent facility in Eastgate and the interim facility and day center on 116th. Thanks,

Claudia R. Browsers

9/28/2016

I am writing to you to express my SUPPORT for building the Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing.

By way of introduction, my name is Michael Hirsch. I am a resident of Issaquah and a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai - participating mostly in services and activities at the Bellevue campus. For the temple, I am the President of the Brotherhood and also a 5th grade religion school teacher. Professionally, I am the Head of Technical Product Management for HERE - a location data and mapping company with offices in Seattle. I am married and a father of two daughters.

Simply put, this shelter is the RIGHT thing to do. We have a problem in our country, but more personally in our communities, with people not being able to "make it". From a moral, religious, and frankly "human decency" point of view, we must help our brothers and sisters. I'm somewhat at a loss for words as, to me, this feels just so blatantly obvious. But, apparently, as I understand you are facing some opposition, it is not.

Let's face it...your success, my success, and the success of those around us is due, in some way, to LUCK. I work hard...I save money...I don't abuse drugs...but I am also very aware that it is a very fine line (often crossed by bad luck) that separates me from someone who can benefit from this shelter. We are ALL made in the same image of some higher power (whatever your belief system may be) and I want my wife, my daughters, and I to live in a world that treats everyone equally...gives everyone a fair chance...and helps those that aren't "making it".

My family has and will continue to donate our time and money to providing for the needy in our communities. This is important to us and we would like to see it move forward.

Thank you for your time reading this.

Michael Hirsch

9/29/2016

What you are doing is great for the homeless. Thank you!

-unsigned

9/29/2016

As a member of the Eastgate Corridor Study (2010-2012) CAC, I am very disappointed that the plan for TOD rezoning at the site for this project will instead be a men's shelter and day center for 100 men. I have no problem with the shelter concept; I just think the location should be anywhere else – possible the King County property down the hill. Next to the transit center, next to Bellevue College, Next to the apartments on 142nd Pl Se – it's just the wrong place for the Men's Winter Shelter. It's the RIGHT place for TOD, including affordable housing. Whether we get ST3 by 2041 or not, the transit center serves a lot of commuters: to Seattle, on Microsoft shuttle buses, on Google shuttle buses. After the Spring District builds out, Eastgate will be the next business commuter location. REI will have its headquarters there in a few years.

The potential for this site is so great that I think it is short-sighted to short circuit the Comprehensive Plan for the Eastgate Corridor with a low-density, part-time shelter that is a permanent feature of the Corridor.

Please try and find an alternative location – possibly at King County's other property on Eastgate Way. If not there, possibly in the LI area of Richards Valley. Both still have easy access to transit for the men, as well as, access to the commercial areas of Factoria where employment is possible.

Lindy Bruce

9/29/2016

I support this project. I am interested to learn more about how a full community effort can be developed to alleviate fears and/or build confidence in the system.

Thank you for helping the people experiencing homelessness.

Michael Horntvedt

9/29/2016

I can see the possibility of having permanent homeless housing in Eastgate, but I think it's irresponsible to put a day center in this heavily wooded area.

Michelle Wannamaker

9/29/2016

I am in favor of this project. It is so necessary and will be a great help to all of us on the Eastside in addressing homelessness

Karina O'Malley

9/29/2016

I am an Asian female who lives at the nearest residential townhome to the proposed homeless shelter. I take daily walks with my dog around Bellevue College, P&R (including the path between BC & Health Center) and surrounding area. Can the police and shelter organization guarantee my safety? None of the "accountability" or "responsiveness" answers are comforting. All it takes is one person to fall victim to change all the residents life for the worse.

Cindy Kwan

9/29/2016

The hillside location is better than the parking lot location because it will be less expensive to build, will help eliminate forest areas where crime can occur, and will be quieter for the residents.

The neighborhoods/communities concern about safety needs to be build into the development/shelter's construction and operation budgets. Everyone wants to help those who experience homelessness. Everyone wants safe neighborhoods. There is a disconnect when a facility is built that may create future safety issues but there is no

correlated funding to address those safety issues – only empty promises of outreach, advisory councils, etc. Tie funding for the two issues together.

-unsigned

9/29/2016

What about buying the parking lot along Eastgate Way and building public health parking up rather than digging?

Alaric Bien

9/29/2016

Some form of housing is a critical need.

It is imperative that every project be coordinated with King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties

John Newman

9/29/2016

It is great to help homeless by providing them houses. However, it is a great concern to me that there will be sex offenders and men with mental issues around my neighborhood. I love to live in this neighborhood since it is very safe and quiet. I often go out for a walk after dark without any fear. I'm not sure how the City will do to prevent any crime. There's no detailed plan. I'd like to hear more firm and detailed plan regarding the safety.

Christine Kim

9/29/2016

Congregations for the Homeless has a long and exceptionally good record of managing shelters and day centers. The Issaquah Human Services Commission has examined grant applications for shelters across the Eastside, and based on the good record and statistics for Congregations for the Homeless shelters, we have been very happy to support them. This new location will greatly benefit the homeless in Issaquah who have found other locations difficult to access.

Elizabeth Maupin

9/29/2016

I strongly support this program. It is critical to address the growing homeless population.

Don Castle

9/29/2016

I'm excited! Great project and site. How can I help?

Cheryl Jurrus

9/29/2016

The project is needed with well qualified partners. We really need to study more closely the vulnerability of the neighborhood. (Condos, foreign students, Hyatt House, other businesses west and north of there). Must post information at P&R for commuters, NOT the organizations.

Susanna Chung

9/29/2016

As a resident of Lake Hills, as an Architect, and as a parent, I am passionate about the opportunity for housing for everyone. Housing and basic shelter is a major concern and issue in the Bellevue area. The men's shelter is essential to help people recover from homelessness. I'm just not sure that the location selected adjacent to Bellevue College is the best location. Bellevue College does provide an opportunity for education for all!

Rick Chesmore

9/29/2016

Great job!! And excited there is so much help here in Bellevue for the homeless!
Dee Cappellette

9/29/2016

The need is clear. A permanent fully professional facility will provide the most help possible. I look forward to volunteering my help.
Paul Thomsen

9/29/2016

I have a comment about this project which I will make in a more considered way later. Spent tonight listening.
Karen Morris

9/29/2016

Temple de Hirsch Sinai, the largest synagogue in Washington State, is eager to partner with CFH in providing support and services for the Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing project. This partnership is good for our community and our neighbors within
Rabbi Aaron Meyer

9/29/2016

I have spent 26+ years dealing with the greater Seattle Area homeless problem. If you would like to go on a tour or see what is going to happen here, please look me up. I can help find a location that will work for all of Bellevue.
Edward Simpson

9/29/2016

Why was it not discussed in the Citizen's Advisory Committee on eastgate I-90 plan? Why did we hear nothing about this until the Eastgate Land Use Amendment was passed by the Planning Commission? Why was the deliberation not done publically?
Betsi Hummer

9/29/2016

It certainly appears that this project is moving rapidly ahead before any input from those of us who live in the neighborhood have been consulted. This is disappointing and very concerning.
C Hall

9/29/2016

Need to do a better job for community outreach and ensure the broadest stakeholder engagement. Support this location and potential of partnership with Bellevue College, access to transit and services if the concerns are mitigated. Concerned that the plan for this needs to include engaging with transportation and human services – need to address traffic congestion and construction impacts and overlap with S Bellevue Park & Ride closure from 2018-2021 and future growth.
Janice Zahn

10/1/2016

I am unable to attend either meeting about putting the men's shelter next to the Eastgate park and ride. The eastside has plenty of community services already such as Hopelink, group homes, affordable housing etc. When will these facilities be spread to other parts of the city. I notice the city council members aren't bothered by such facilities in their neighborhoods.

Specific questions I have are:

It will be next to a college with young people in the majority. How will the shelter be policed?

What sanitation will be supplied? Since these individuals will have an address, will they be required to look for work, not use drugs and alcohol. Will there be just tents set up or will there be small houses.

I have lived here for 41 years and realize change can be difficult. However crime has increased and the taxes are quite high to pay for all these non government issues. Somehow the public isn't allowed to vote on what they would like in their communities, like art centers, convention centers or shelters.

Barbara Kenney

10/2/2016

I attended the 9/29 community meeting hoping to be reassured that the city council had carefully considered the full impact of a regional homeless shelter on all groups: the homeless, neighbors, businesses, property owners. The panel consisted of homeless advocates, one city and one police representative. It did not include Metro or Bellevue College representatives, anyone associated with the 2012 Eastgate Redevelopment plan or community members. The panel members referred to private and "public funding" and only as an afterthought seemed to realize that "public funding" comes from taxpayers, those of us sitting in the meeting. Because of the speed and secrecy with which this project has sprung up, some of the commenters gave poorly prepared rambling statements. It seems the city has not really considered the needs of anyone but the regional homeless population and I left the meeting with more concerns than I had before.

Secrecy and Opacity: I am alarmed by the speed in which an agreement was signed and a site was chosen, without participation from residents, patrons and property owners in the area, and without consideration of any other site. The city unilaterally determined who the "stakeholders" are and did not inform anyone else. I found out in a *Bellevue Reporter* article in mid-August. By then the project was well underway. I went to the city's website looking for information and found more links which led to more links, which finally led to an instruction to email for more information. The labyrinthine process deters public participation in the project. Signing the agreement and initiating public comment in August when people are on vacation seems like another way to limit participation. At the 9/29 meeting, it was pointed out that Bellevue College students and staff have not been notified and that Park & Ride users have not been informed, so neighbor "stakeholders" were excluded from much of the public comment period and from the community meeting. There was also no mention of when the comment period would close, although obviously it must be before the next meeting on 10/27.

Misleading representation: The information released on the project understates both the impact and the size of the project. Flyers call it a "permanent men's shelter," but the CFH spokesman called it "low-barrier shelter" which could include sex offenders, addicts and those with untreated mental illness. The city refers to it euphemistically as an "emergency" shelter without explaining the no-background-check implications. City flyers advertise a "100-bed shelter" but do not mention the expected capacity for the multi-story housing facility actually being planned. The number of men housed is possibly *several hundred*, not 100 as it appears on first look, which could significantly change population demographics and behaviors in an area now primarily populated by suburban families and office workers. City flyers on the project quote statistics about homeless schoolchildren, women and families, who will not be served by this shelter at all.

Impact on nearby areas: Shelter workers at the meeting said they always felt safe while volunteering. CFH seems to have plans in place to keep behavior under control inside and immediately outside the shelter. It is what the clients do while unsupervised in the surrounding community that concerns me. The CFH representatives indicated that they would patrol a small area surrounding the shelter, but outside that, it will be up to the police. 100 yards from the site are deeply wooded areas, the BC campus and parking, and the P&R. The police representative said there was very little they could do until a crime had actually been committed and reported. In other words, it is not a crime to stand near wooded areas or walk out of them; it is only a crime if someone witnesses the shooting up and discarding of needles. It is not a crime to knock on doors casing houses, or to walk among the cars at the P&R or college; it is only a crime if

someone witnesses a break-in. A property owner or resident has to become a crime victim before the police can do anything.

Impact on the entire Eastgate area: Commenters pointed out that there are already homeless people living in Eastgate. Of course we would like to house our homeless neighbors in Eastgate. However, this is not a neighborhood or even city-sized plan. This project proposes bringing in homeless men from all over the county. Suddenly, the population of Eastgate would be comprised of 8-10% homeless men living in the shelter, more coming to receive day services, and possibly even more who are drawn to an area perceived as homeless-friendly. The police representative at the meeting said they see “double-digit” increases in calls when the current winter shelter opens—property crimes, drug use, fights, mental health issues. If Eastgate is to house a large population of struggling individuals, Eastgate should receive additional police and fire resources to deal with the increased demand. Current residents will certainly see increased crime and slower response times. If there are to be increased car prowls at the Park & Ride, there should be security personnel on site.

Impact on Bellevue College: There is no doubt of the benefit to the shelter residents of being able to take classes at BC and I hope many do so. However, campus access is not limited to those enrolled in classes. Shelter residents would be completely unsupervised on the BC campus. I wonder if the students will be notified of level 2 or 3 sex offenders moving into the shelter or enrolling in classes. BC has beautiful wooded areas where it would be easy to hide illegal behavior. I would hate to see BC’s natural areas turn into a hazardous wasteland of syringes, litter and human waste, and I would hate for the trees to have to be pruned or removed as the BPD representative suggested.

Impact on the 2012 Eastgate Redevelopment: As pointed out by one commenter at the meeting, the key to the redevelopment proposal was a transportation-based hub on the site this plan has co-opted for a homeless shelter. I find the statement by the city representative that the shelter fits in “perfectly” with the redevelopment proposal to be ridiculous and not based on any actual consideration of both plans. It is clear that the city committee that chose this site for the shelter did not consider the work of the redevelopment committee and its conflicting plans for the site. I conclude that the city has abandoned the idea of developing Eastgate as a transit center and instead envisions it as a center for regional homeless services.

Impact on me personally: I have lived in South Bellevue for 25 years. I shop and bank in Eastgate, have taken classes at Bellevue College, and walk home from the P&R. Eastgate is separated from the rest of Bellevue by freeways and the transfer station, and walking trails are few and far between. I was disappointed when Eastgate’s Safeway, bowling alley and restaurants turned into car lots. When the city announced its 2012 redevelopment plan, I was hopeful that Eastgate would become a vibrant pedestrian-friendly area like much of the rest of Bellevue, and I have always hoped that Bellevue College would continue to expand into the neighborhood. This homeless shelter plan seems to be in direct conflict with the redevelopment plan and I fear it has been presented in a most unrealistic positive light without any concrete measures to mitigate the impact on the surrounding area. It seems that the city no longer cares about revitalizing Eastgate. If this shelter is built on the site, I will do my best to support it and help it succeed. However, if I am panhandled or harassed in Eastgate, or I no longer feel safe walking there, I will merely drive through it as I take my business to another neighborhood.

Conclusion: There is clearly a need for homeless services on the Eastside, in particular services that successfully move people out of homelessness. CFH seems to be realistic about what they can accomplish and a good choice to provide the services. I want to support men who are taking steps to end their homelessness, but am concerned the proposed shelter does not require such steps and that not all of the residents and clients will respect the safety and property rights of the surrounding neighbors. The plan depends on pretending that such concerns are unfounded, rather than addressing them. I am concerned that the city has tunnel vision focused on rushing to put a shelter on this particular site and has no one representing the interests of the residents and businesses in the area. I think the city has understated the scope of the project, underestimated the areas affected, and not sought sufficient public input. It is unrealistic to expect one neighborhood to absorb a large homeless population from the entire county without significantly impacting that neighborhood and to a lesser extent, the surrounding neighborhoods as well.

Unsigned

10/5/2016

Thank you for the informative talk today at our staff meeting. Some of us wanted to let you know we are looking forward to working together and helping our homeless population. I have worked with the homeless over the years and have never had a problem with any of them and find them enjoyable. I think they need community as just being around other families, not isolated.

We have had men on your program come here and they have been welcome.

I was the one who said I did medical and Orca cards at the meeting and hoped to have resources for us to know how best to refer and get referrals.

Best luck and we hope to work together soon.

Patty Merlot

10/6/2016

<http://denver.cbslocal.com/2016/10/05/homeless-couple-having-sex-in-public-last-straw-denver-residents-moving-out/>

We not here yet, but Bellevue is going to reach this tipping point very soon. Homeless, transients, resource-resistant individuals, whatever descriptor we are using for these lost and poor individuals must be addressed.

And before we get much farther, just to be clear, *I have great empathy for these individuals*. I, like you, I am sure, have donated monetarily and with my time substantially all my life.

However, homelessness, like a lot of social issues we are facing is quickly racing to a point of no return. Every day we do not chose to intercede, to not enforce, not hold the social justice line for ALL, we are not helping—we are enabling.

Homeless are everywhere in our city. A public safety risk at nearly every major intersection panhandling; making the public library unsafe (with their drug and alcohol use) and unusable; costing every one who grocery shops in Bellevue more money because of the rampant and unchecked shoplifting (which I have witnessed on several occasions at the Safeway downtown); threatening and intimidating citizens and visitors alike (especially, again, as I have witnessed, our Asian population of residents and visitors); they steal everything that is not under lock and key—so many kids in this city have had their bicycles stolen from homeless; the vast majority of homeless are not victims, they are the perpetrators. Absolutely. Complex issues are not solved by simplistic solutions. Right? I disagree. Speed limits are a simplistic approach to public safety on the road. Ask any police officer to repeat the myriad of excuses for an individual stopped for speeding!

I could go on for quite a while, but the bottom-line is this: I do not want my tax dollars spent on facilities enabling the homeless. No “no or minimum barrier” facilities; no centers for massive housing of homeless; no enabling of any kind. Treatment, yes. A change to move back into productive society, yes. For those that cannot or will not, no. Life is hard. Walk through any of our city’s beautiful medical centers and their various wards treating and caring for individuals dying way too early. Having been wonderful parents, workers, citizens, people—and yet life has handed them a terrible, unfair, undeserved, too-early ending.

All I am asking is too treat the homeless with the same measure of “fair” we would treat each other. There are rules, laws, ordinances. Please enforce them.

David Mari

10/10/2016

I am writing to you today to give my support to the proposed Men's shelter and day center at the property located at 14350 SE Eastgate Way, currently under review. I am a Newcastle, WA resident, a member of Temple de Hirsch Sinai, and my family and I have made several meals with the temple to benefit the homeless in various locations over the years.

It is understandable that the surrounding community has many concerns regarding the potential creation of a permanent housing shelter/day center at a site within their community. But, with appropriate education, I believe that they too will see the benefits that a site like this can bring to the overall community and the good that it can do.

The shelter will not attract homeless individuals not already connected to our community into our neighborhoods. In fact, by offering supportive services like showers, laundry, hygiene products and a safe place to sleep, this shelter can successfully help transition many individuals from homelessness back into society. Because this particular shelter is so well funded and supported by many well known and respected organizations in our greater community, this shelter will be able to provide a wide variety of services, will be well supervised and provide in general on-going oversight, and enforce a code of conduct among clients.

The groups partnering to bring this shelter to the Eastside have years of experience working with people struggling with temporary and long-term homelessness and this shelter will therefore benefit greatly from the combined knowledge they bring to the table. Homelessness is not something to be ashamed of. Not helping others struggling with this very real problem is.

Thank you in advance for taking this opinion into account in this matter.

Eileen Rubenstein

Newcastle, WA resident

10/10/2016

I've looked at the information here: <http://bellevuewa.gov/eastside-mens-shelter.htm> as well as the discussion thread on Nextdoor.com.

Questions I have and would like answered are:

1. Operating hours of the shelter. I've read 24/7 as well as 8am-5pm.
2. What happens after hours?
3. Are sex offenders part of the program?
4. Do program members need to be drug/alcohol free? I see addiction support services listed, so this makes me wonder.
5. What is being done to address petty crime concerns? Hundreds of cars left during the day at the Park and Ride are great targets.
6. What presence will Bellevue PD have?
7. What staffing levels are expected?
8. What is the daily estimated service load (i.e. how many people will be at the center, are they there the entire day, what is the traffic flow?)

If this information is available somewhere please advise. If not, I'd like to know how I can get answers to these questions.

David.

Some additional questions:

- * How long will men be allowed to stay at the facility and what happens when their time is up? Other facilities allow 90 days and then what?
- *Where are the lewd/aggressive, criminal history, sex offenders, mentally imbalanced, chemically influenced homeless men sent when they don't meet the qualifications or break the rules for the shelter?
- *Where is the guarantee that this shelter will not attract more homeless sex offenders to Bellevue from outside of Bellevue? What will be done if it does?
- *How will home owners and businesses with 2-5 miles be compensated by the city when property values go down and business is impacted?
- *How will the shelter be able to police all the wooded areas to ensure homeless men are not setting up camp there and spreading garbage and feces as well as creating a safety situation for trail goers?
- *What if the site lacks enough funding or volunteers to support their promises at any given point?

10/11/2016

As an eastside resident, I am concerned about this planned permanent shelter. Here are my questions.

- how many nights would one man be able to sleep at the shelter?

- what are these men told to do during the day? I assume a few might have jobs at the shelter and some others will be directed towards mental and physical health services, but what about those who have no tasks and direction and they can't stay in the shelter all day?
- if the shelter is over-capacity, would you rotate which men can sleep overnight? How would that be handled? How will you decide who can stay?
- you stated that "you'll turn no one away" at the Sept community meeting. However, knowing that all public buildings have occupant capacity limits and must adhere to code, how will you handle overflow because, at some point, it's certain to occur?
- what specifically will you do when you turn men away? Escort to another shelter? Bus money for another destination? Or just close the door to them?
- will you monitor how many men are coming over from downtown?
- since it will be easy for the men to come from downtown on the bus, is this shelter location intended to shift, either directly or indirectly, some of the burden from the downtown overflow to the eastside?
- what additional security do you have planned for areas surrounding the shelter? Specifically, what increase in police security will be added?
- when drugs are discovered either on someone's person or left outside the shelter but on it's property, what steps will be taken?
- what should residents do when we find needles in local parks?

Thank you for taking the time to thoroughly answer my questions.
Cynthia Hall

10/12/2016

I wrote the following in response to a Men's Homeless Shelter post on Next Door.

It is important to do a data driven analysis of the site. It is not enough to say "it has to go somewhere". It should go in the best place possible for both the homeless AND the needs of those already in the area. What are the costs versus the benefits? In other areas where this type of housing was established, what happened to the number of police calls? The number of ambulance calls? The revenues of nearby businesses? The values of houses in the area? Attendance at schools?

There will be lost economic growth potential. There will be lost quality of life. Businesses will relocate. There will be increased pressure for student rental housing North of the college. The City is already having challenges enforcing the individual room rentals ban. The South end of campus would have been perfect for college housing.

I believe there is a better location for the men's homeless shelter that would have fewer negative impacts to the surrounding area and still meet homeless men's unique needs. Balance is key.

Stephanie Walter

10/15/2016

I think the decision of the city of Bellevue council to build an emergency homeless shelter for 100 - 150 men near Eastgate Park & Ride, Bellevue College and residential area is not for benefits of Eastgate residents and the city of Bellevue as a whole. This decision will increase crime in the area, decrease values of the homes in 1-2 miles proximity to the shelter, discourage people to use buses to get to Seattle and Bellevue College and make the area less attractive for companies to have offices in the near proximity to the shelter. Many investors decide not to put their money in development of the I-90 corridor too. It's just my opinion, but I think my points are not without any grounds and need to be carefully evaluated.

Andrei Kiselyov

10/16/2016

I've spoken frequently on the need to implement the infrastructure to support the Eastgate/I-90 project, before allowing the growth and I know I've spoken to the Planning Commission about this next statement, but I'm not sure if I've ever

brought it up with the City Council. And that is, that if the infrastructure was addressed first, there are parts of the Eastgate/I-90 project that could be considered by existing Eastgate residents, workers, & commuters as improvements to the neighborhood, assets even. And a big part of those improvements, is the potential for additional retail & restaurants in Eastgate. But I'm concerned about the lost economic opportunity, if the Homeless Shelter Campus is allowed to be built at the proposed Eastgate location. What developer is going to take the financial risk of building in the new TOD, when they learn they would be building near a homeless shelter campus? What businesses will risk the success of their business and perceived safety concerns of their employees, by choosing a location close to where the homeless can receive services? What families with young children, will take those children to restaurants or shopping located on the same block as a homeless shelter campus? Especially if Eastgate ends up looking like Seattle! But even if doesn't, even if there is no visible evidence of the homeless shelter campus, *perception* can kill the success of the corridor!

We, the residents of Bellevue, have been witnessing & hearing statements of confusion & conflict, because of the use of the term "homeless shelter," Some people are referring to the "permanent emergency winter men's shelter (capacity of serving 100 men a night)." That definition is coming from the Presentation to City Council - signed 8-1-2016 located at <http://bellevuewa.gov/eastside-mens-shelter>. While others are using the term "homeless shelter" to refer to everything that is proposed to be included at this site: Permanent Emergency Winter Shelter (capacity 100), Drop-in Day Center & Cafeteria, Complementary associated services including Medical and health services & Case management & Employment support, and 50-60 Service-enriched permanent housing. I find it unclear if there is a Permanent Shelter, plus a Permanent Winter Shelter, or if they are referring to the same thing. So we have begun referring to all that is proposed in this project, we use the term "Homeless Shelter Campus."

And what of the vibrancy of existing businesses? Existing Eastgate businesses are already negatively impacted by traffic. People choose not to shop or go to restaurants in Eastgate & Factoria, because they don't want to fight the traffic. And people will choose not to go to Eastgate, because they don't want to go somewhere where there is a higher degree of crime and panhandling. Puyallup recently temporarily closed a homeless resource center after dozens of Puyallup citizens testified at City Council meetings complaining about trash, increased crime, and drug use they associated with the homeless people. Some Puyallup residents contend the center's presence has attracted more homeless people to the city. <http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article77494272.html> Isn't this akin to the drop-in day center that's part of this proposal? Wouldn't this shelter put undue financial hardship on Eastgate's existing businesses? Bellevue is perceived as an affluent city and it is not a giant leap to expect that many of the homeless will think that there will be better services & "handouts" in Bellevue, than they would find in some place like Puyallup. And it's just human nature that when presented with 2 or more options, people will select the option they think will bring them the most benefit. At a stakeholder meeting, I pointed this out to Steve Roberts, of Congregations for the Homeless, and Mike McCormick-Huentelmen. Mr. Roberts said that the results they found when asking the homeless where they were from, showed that most had ties to the Eastside. But then, in response to an earlier question during that meeting, Mr. Roberts said that it was hard to know if what the homeless men were telling them was the truth, because they frequently lie, especially if they think it could affect the services or benefits they receive.

The very 1st factor given of the optimal location site is:

Avoid single family residential areas.

This Eastgate site violates that criteria. There are townhomes less than 700 ft. from the proposed site. And the 142nd Ave. bridge to the south side of I-90 is right next to the proposed site. Even though the Public Health property is located on the north side of I-90, since all the grocery stores and drug stores are on the south side, along with Eastgate's single-family residential neighborhood, I have no doubt that the homeless will be using that bridge. This would then put them on SE 36th St. and one *building* away from all the single-family homes. Not 1 block, 1 building away, and these homes are less than 1,200 ft from the proposed Homeless Shelter Campus.

Where is the public process for site selection? Who identified the potential sites, who participated in the site selection, and how was the criteria rated and prioritized?

I'm, also, concerned about who has and has not been notified, and the means of notification. The city's primary means of notification, these days, seems to be via Nextdoor. But only about 20% of Bellevue's population is on Nextdoor. This

is especially troublesome in older neighborhoods like Eastgate, Lake Hills, & Spiritridge. Many of our residents are middle-aged & seniors, who are not necessarily tech-savvy & often not on social media. Social media is an important means of contacting residents, but it should be *part* of the means, not be the *primary* means. The articles in the Seattle Times & the BellevueReporter were a great *start*, but many people are too busy to sit down and read the paper, these days. That's especially the case for working parents, with busy families. I usually listen to the evening news on TV, while I prepare and eat my dinner. I think the city needs to get a story about this proposed Homeless Shelter Campus and where to find more information about it, on TV. I know the city can't control what the media does and does not put on the news, but I have a hard time believing there isn't anyone on staff, who has connections with TV reporters. Would this qualify as a public service announcement or public service bulletin? Isn't there something about government agencies getting free airtime with those? Also of note, at the Sept. 29th Community Meeting, the Vice President of Bellevue College got up and spoke during the public comment time. He had just learned of the meeting that morning and was furious about the lack of notification to the college. Another lack identified was no posters or any kind of notifications to commuters at the P&R. Mr. McCormick-Huentelmen said at the Sept. 29th meeting that he and the team had been meeting with nearby businesses, to update them on this proposed Homeless Shelter Campus. My friend owns multi-million dollar businesses in Eastgate and she didn't receive any kind of notification. So we became curious Just who *had* been notified? So friends started knocking on doors and speaking to property and business owners and onsite management, asking if they had been contacted or received any sort of notifications. Out of more than a dozen businesses, we found only 2 that had been contacted and almost all were outright against this Homeless Shelter Campus, with only 1 that is "possibly in favor." One of those contacted was Modernist Cuisine, located on the Intellectual Ventures property, immediately south of the Health Sciences property. They are not in favor of locating the Homeless Shelter Campus at this site and just spent millions of dollars to upgrade their kitchens. We also learned they are currently in discussion with the City of Bellevue regarding the Homeless Shelter Campus and the City will have to pay millions of dollars to relocate them, if the homeless shelter is built at this site. Was the cost of this settlement factored into the site selection? Oh, and of note: I believe Bill Gates is 50% owner of Modernist Cuisine.

I would like to point out that locating the Homeless Shelter Campus on the Public Health property would also violate Comprehensive Plan, Subarea Plans – Volume 2, Eastgate Policy S-EG-42:

POLICY S-EG-42. Encourage a mixed use area between Bellevue College and I-90 into a walkable, transit-oriented center at the level of intensity needed to create a vibrant mix of offices, residences, and locally-serving shops and restaurants that are urban in character.

One of my biggest concerns about this proposal is that Eastgate will end up looking like Seattle. At the Sept. 29th meeting, a BPD officer addressed how camping on private residents' property would be addressed. But the majority of Seattle's illegal camping problem appears to be on public lands – state, county, & city. Eastgate also has those conditions, plus, we have a heavily wooded neighborhood. This could be very inviting. I know there are those homeless who want to get out of homelessness. But there are also many who don't want help or are unable or unwilling to follow the rules of a shelter. I know of one homeless man who already lives in Eastgate and falls into that category. People have attempted to help him multiple times and he has refused the help, each time. He now goes out of his way to avoid people. I worry about him sometimes, especially during the winter, and I would like to help. But I also don't want to see our beautiful neighborhood destroyed by illegal campsites all over the place. The Day Center is the most worrisome, with low-barrier restrictions of who can use the services.

In a stakeholder meeting, residents asked point-blank if this would be a "clean & sober" shelter and they were told "no." If this proposal was for a clean & sober shelter and thorough nation-wide background checks were run, before someone was approved to live there, I could see the possibility of having the supportive housing part of this project in a different Eastgate location. But the current proposal is that homeless residents would only be required to not drink or do drugs *at* the Homeless Shelter Campus. Meaning the homeless could leave the Homeless Shelter Campus, drink & do drugs elsewhere (like in our woods), and come back to the shelter to live and it's all hunky dory. I'm not naïve enough to think there are currently no drug dealers in Eastgate or nearby. But this would concentrate a dealer's potential customers in one place, so this would be an attractive economic opportunity of the wrong kind! And one of the problems with the Puyallup homeless resource center was that they weren't doing rigorous enough background checks, so that's

something for this partnership to keep in mind. Finally, do all of the shelter services have to be in one location? For example: Could clean & sober supportive housing be provided at a different Eastgate location and the low-barrier day center & services be located in a more appropriate location, like an industrial area or downtown, where the temptation of our wooded neighborhoods and parks do not exist?

Michelle Wannamaker

10/17/2016

My name is Yan, who is a resident at Sunset ridge, which is near eastgate park and ride. I'm writing this email to show my disagreement against building homeless shelter around the area.

Firstly, building a homeless near our community will definitely increase the number of homeless people around the community. Considering that the number of homeless around the area is low, there will be huge impact on the community. One major issue is that generally speaking the number of crime incidents increases significantly with the number of homeless people. With that in mind, the city will have to invest a lot, including hire more police officers to take care of the community around.

Secondly, this will also make the anyone who uses the facility nearby feels unsafe, including community members like me, bellevue college students, and even people do transit at park and ride. We might have a choice of selling the place and move to other place. But what happens to the students in bellevue college? They have to come to school and take classes. The last thing we want to do is to put our children in danger. I lived around university of Washington before and i would never try to go out alone at night because there were so many homeless around the area. We don't really want to see this happening again around bellevue college. And we don't even have a way to fix it after the shelter has been built.

Last but not the least, distributing the homeless doesn't really solve the problem. Instead, it will make everywhere worse. Building a shelter next to a college will help homeless to take classes is the funniest joke i have ever heard of. There are bunches of universities in the city, and it will take them less time and effort to try to attend class there. Do the homeless go and attend the class? Definitely not. We have a homeless shelter around UW, and it only makes the situation worse. Instead i propose the city arrange the instructor to come to the existing shelter first and try to solve the continuing education there rather than throwing bunches of homeless here and there. Distributing homeless in different places will only mitigate the issue in the short term. In the long term, it will cost more to fix it.

Yan

10/18/2016

I write to voice my opposition to the proposed site for the permanent Eastside men's shelter at 14350 SE Eastgate Way. I do support permanent housing for the vulnerable populations, however I strongly oppose the proposed location. Additionally, there is a lack of transparency from the City with regards to accurate and complete information being readily available and dispersed to the surrounding communities who will be impacted by this shelter. I live in Eastgate, next to Eastgate Elementary School. I learned of this proposal on Next-door.com. Why isn't the City doing more to inform the community about this?

I have many concerns about the proposed "low barrier" men's shelter comes into the neighborhood. We have three girls ages 3, 10, and 13. My oldest daughter attends Tillicum Middle school and has on occasion walked from the school to home via the pedestrian overpass over I90 and up 150th Ave SE. I would never have allowed her to walk home if this shelter already existed in the neighborhood potentially housing addicts, criminals, and sex offenders. At the very least, I implore you to change the type of shelter you are considering for this location and impose a dry/clean house with no exceptions.

After reviewing the minutes from the September 29th meeting, I'm angered, not reassured. All the questions are listed with no answers. The only reason I can think of for not supplying answers to the questions is that the answers are not what residents want to hear.

One of the primary goals of the city and county is to locate this shelter in a non-residential area. There is family housing directly behind the location, as well as, Bellevue College with dorms, and several elementary schools/middle schools within a 2 mile radius. A "low barrier" men's shelter belongs in the downtown core of Bellevue. This site, with access to public health, transportation, and good schools would be ideal for affordable housing, a family shelter, or women's shelter, not a "low barrier" men's shelter. You have missed the mark.

Please reconsider this location. We can, and must do better to serve the needs of the homeless population while protecting the health, and quality of life of the surrounding residents in Eastgate.

I thank you for your service and commitment to keep Bellevue great.

Robyn Kerr

10/18/2016

I am writing to you today to give my support to the proposed Men's shelter and day center at the property located at 14350 SE Eastgate Way, currently under review. I am a Newcastle, WA resident, a member of Temple de Hirsch Sinai, and my family and I have made several meals with the temple to benefit the homeless in various locations over the years.

It is understandable that the surrounding community has many concerns regarding the potential creation of a permanent housing shelter/day center at a site within their community. But, with appropriate education, I believe that they too will see the benefits that a site like this can bring to the overall community and the good that it can do.

The shelter will not attract homeless individuals not already connected to our community into our neighborhoods. In fact, by offering supportive services like showers, laundry, hygiene products and a safe place to sleep, this shelter can successfully help transition many individuals from homelessness back into society. Because this particular shelter is so well funded and supported by many well known and respected organizations in our greater community, this shelter will be able to provide a wide variety of services, will be well supervised and provide in general on-going oversight, and enforce a code of conduct among clients.

The groups partnering to bring this shelter to the Eastside have years of experience working with people struggling with temporary and long-term homelessness and this shelter will therefore benefit greatly from the combined knowledge they bring to the table. Homelessness is not something to be ashamed of. Not helping others struggling with this very real problem is.

Thank you in advance for taking this opinion into account in this matter.

Eileen Rubenstein

Newcastle, WA resident

10/20/2016

I was in the public hearing on 10/17 regarding the Eastgate men's shelter. The conclusion from this hearing was that, more public opinions will be collected from neighborhood in that area. I hope it is still the case and no decision should be made before public concerns are addressed.

I am a commuter using Eastgate park & ride everyday. I love this facility and would like to keep this area safe and clean. I am not against the homelessness, but the help to these people provided by the city should not have negative impact on public safety. There are many young female students using the public transportation and it will definitely be a concern to them. There are offices, high tech companies, hotels and other business around, the homelessness shelter is definitely impacting them negatively. Have opinions from these parties are collected?

Please hear more from public, neighborhood regarding this proposal.

Feili

10/20/2016

As a resident of the Eastgate community, we are very disturbed by the city's decision to build a homeless men's shelter in Eastgate, especially since there never appeared to be any public hearing before this decision was made. In other words, it's a decision made on our behalf without our consent, which doesn't sound democratic at all.

While it's a seemingly convenient decision for the city council to make with the following reasons listed on Bellevue city's website:

1. Close proximity to Eastgate Park & Ride so homeless people can get around with ease - many working class people are also relying on the facility and they are working hard and paying tax to support public transportation. The least they can ask for is to be able to go to work and get home safely, without worrying about being harassed. I hope I don't have to point out that many homeless people are also drug addicts and it's well-known that the Greater Seattle area has almost the worst drug addiction epidemic in US.

2. Close proximity to Bellevue Community College so homeless people can have continued education - do you have any statistics proving there are significant needs of these people for continued education? It's sad to say, but if most of these homeless people had striven to have a better life through their own effort, they wouldn't have ended up where they are now.

By making decisions like this, do any of you have in your mind public safety, especially the safety of commuters & BCC students?

Please let us know whatever we can do to have this reversed.

James & Sophia

10/20/2016

As a resident of the Eastgate community, I am very disturbed by the city's decision to build a homeless men's shelter in Eastgate, especially since there never appeared to be any public hearing before this decision was made. In other words, it's a decision made on our behalf without our consent, which doesn't sound democratic at all.

While it's a seemingly convenient decision for the city council to make with the following reasons listed on Bellevue city's website:

1. Close proximity to Eastgate Park & Ride so homeless people can get around with ease - many working class people are also relying on the facility and they are working hard and paying tax to support public transportation. The least they can ask for is to be able to go to work and get home safely, without worrying about being harassed. I hope I don't have to point out that many homeless people are also drug addicts and it's well-known that the Greater Seattle area has almost the worst drug addiction epidemic in US.

2. Close proximity to Bellevue Community College so homeless people can have continued education - do you have any statistics proving there are significant needs of these people for continued education? It's sad to say, but if most of these homeless people had striven to have a better life through their own effort, they wouldn't have ended up where they are now.

By making decisions like this, do any of you have in your mind the public safety, especially the safety of commuters & BCC students?

Please let us know whatever we can do to have this reversed.

Fang

10/22/2016

Please add me to your Bellevue distribution for updates on the Men's Shelter project. Your extensive outreach to the communities involved is greatly appreciated.

The scope and scale, plus location near transit seems very appropriate and well-considered. I've read the comments and questions from earlier public sessions and there seems to be a lot of learning going on. This is essential for long term success; and very important and valuable service to our city and broader Eastside communities. It ties together the equally important Bellevue initiatives to address Affordable Housing on the Eastside.

Dwight Schrag

Ashwood Neighborhood resident

10/22/2016

I am writing to you to strongly express my opposition to the construction of the low barrier Eastside Men's Shelter in the Eastgate area of Bellevue where it would be located in close proximity to elementary and middle schools, the Bellevue College campus, single family residences with young children, and community parks with wooded areas accessible for homeless loitering, drug use, and potentially violent crime. The top priority of the Bellevue city council needs to be the safety and well-being of our kids and families, as well as the security of our homes. A low barrier men's shelter, as described in the FAQ, does not belong in a residential neighborhood or within walking distance from schools and parks. The vicinity of medical services should not trump our safety. I have no doubt that if this shelter is located in the proposed location, home robberies, car prowling, homeless loitering in our parks and green spaces, drug activity, and feasibly violent crime will increase in our neighborhoods. This has been shown to be the case in other instances where homeless men's shelters have been located close to residential areas.

I strongly believe that the city council should scrap the current plan and start from the drawing board or extend the community outreach & impact study period by 6 months to 1 year. This project is profoundly poorly sited and further study and community outreach is an absolute necessity.

Ellen Weiss

Robinswood Neighborhood
Bellevue, WA

10/23/2016

Bad idea for all of the reasons I'm sure you have already received! I won't take up time or bore you by re-listing them.
Larry Buchanan

10/23/2016

I would like to express my deep concerns regarding the homeless shelter that is proposed to be built near Eastgate Park & Ride and Bellevue College. I found out about this proposal through the Next Door website, and it was shocking to realize there was complete lack of communication regarding this proposal until recently.

I understand there needs to be a solution for homeless people, but the proposed solution will negatively impact nearby areas including family neighborhoods, college, P&R, schools, and businesses. Many people including myself worked very hard to be able to afford a place in Bellevue. The only reason my family purchased a house here was because this place is safe. Of course crime happens but not nearly as bad as in Seattle, Renton, Kent, or other nearby cities.

It's extremely concerning to see that City Council is willing to risk safety of all residents and people that use this area in order to help homeless people where in reality City Council should represent interests of Bellevue residents and should never let our safety be compromised.

As mentioned above, I do believe there needs to be a solution for homelessness but given the complete lack of transparency with the current proposal, the only fair way to handle it is to start from the beginning, involve community, look at multiple locations and multiple proposals, and let people who will be impacted vote.

Olga

10/23/2016

To Bellevue City Council members,

I am extremely concerned and highly disappointed that plans for a homeless shelter in Bellevue have practically been finalized without any public notice.

I recently paid a lot of money to purchase a home in Bellevue, because I wanted a safe place to raise my family.

A low barrier homeless shelter is not something Bellevue needs. Other solutions need to be considered, and the impacted Bellevue residents have the right to be involved in the decision making process.

Please let me know what I can do to become more involved in this matter to ensure those that need help get help that is appropriate, and those that are raising their families here are not put at risk.

Nickolas Betcher

10/23/2016

I am writing to you to strongly express my opposition to the construction of the low barrier Eastside Men's Shelter in the Eastgate area of Bellevue where it would be located in close proximity to elementary and middle schools, the Bellevue College campus, single family residences with young children, and community parks with wooded areas accessible for homeless loitering, drug use, and potentially violent crime. The top priority of the Bellevue city council needs to be the safety and well-being of our kids and families, as well as the security of our homes. A low barrier men's shelter, as described in the FAQ, does not belong in a residential neighborhood or within walking distance from schools and parks. The vicinity of medical services should not trump our safety. I have no doubt that if this shelter is located in the proposed location, home robberies, car prowling, homeless loitering in our parks and green spaces, drug activity, and feasibly violent crime will increase in our neighborhoods. This has been shown to be the case in other instances where homeless men's shelters have been located close to residential areas.

I live, and my son goes to school, within one mile (less than one mile, if trails behind the Park & Ride through BCC are used) of the proposed Homeless Facility. I am very concerned, due to the size and type of facility this would be, for all the residents, commuters and students near-by to this facility, not to mention all the kids that utilize Robinswood fields and play at the playgrounds there. The south end of Bellevue has some lower income apartment complexes (Hidden Village in particular), which house particularly vulnerable populations, who do not deserve to have this experimental facility "dumped" into their backyard. The residents of Hidden Village (within about 1/2 mile of the proposed site), houses lower income elderly, single parents and parents working 2 or 3 jobs to make ends meet. They do not deserve to have to worry even more about the safety of their families and children. It seems to me that facilities like this always seem to be housed in lower income neighborhoods when, to me, it makes much more sense to site them in wealthier neighborhoods where residents can afford gated residences and/or security systems. But, as we know, those communities would never stand for it. I am disappointed that the council did not find any other more appropriate areas on the Eastside to site this facility. Or maybe it was just thought that the Eastgate/South-end Bellevue residents would be the least vocal in protest. You can see by the, nearly 800 signatures and growing petition, that not only Eastgate but many South-end residents and beyond are very unhappy with this Facility in this location.

I am also very disappointed with the non-transparent way this Homeless Shelter proposal was handled. It is my understanding that, after the Aug 1 meeting, some on the council, including Mayor Stokes, thought it would be appropriate for the community outreach/feedback period to extend only through the end of August. We all know that many people are on vacation during that time. The outreach to community has been very limited and only now are we beginning to have questions answered. It seems that businesses in the area were not even notified at all. This all leads to a real lack of trust in city government.

I have very personal experiences with the homeless and I have a lot of compassion in my heart for these folks. In fact, I think the plan to combine some treatment along with job skills and housing is a very well-thought out plan and one that could work. But this, very large facility, near-by to residences and students is not the right site. I really have never heard of a long-term facility like this with no restrictions on the residents. I don't understand how they could be allowed to house addicts/alcoholics and then be told that between certain hours they are not to loiter around the shelter. Where would they go? They need to have money to fund their addictions and if they are in the percentage of men who do not want to or are not employable, certainly they will head into the community to find ways to get money/drugs. This is just common sense. And let's not forget the unfortunate pregnant mother of four who was walking (most likely from Hidden Village!) to the Public Health center on one of those paths right behind where this facility would be sited, and was brutally murdered by a transient 11 years ago. It was not so long ago that I would think council members would have forgotten, as it happened right here in Bellevue, a community with very few murders.

I strongly believe that the city council should scrap the current plan and start from the drawing board or extend the

community outreach & impact study period by 6 months to 1 year. This project is profoundly poorly sited and further study and community outreach is an absolute necessity.

Jennifer Harris

resident of the Robinswood neighborhood

Also, not sure how to go about this, but would like to formally request a public forum with the council in regards to this proposal.

10/23/2016

I, for one, do not support the common approach on the need for homeless shelters. To be quite honest, I believe the Seattle and Portland homeless problem is one the cities, themselves, have created, taking the stand that nothing is required of the individuals who would benefit. No requirement to go to rehab, no requirement to become self-supporting in return for being given a hand up, and no expectation as to what will be achieved in the long run. However, I believe the situation for females...especially those with children...is a different matter, but even in those circumstances, there have to be conditions that must be met on the part of the recipients.

I've seen and talked to many of the homeless in my area and given them little jobs to do to afford the next meal/fix/bottle of booze. I have also put up with the thefts caused, no doubt, by a few of them, as well. Most have no interest in really getting their lives in order and why would they when they can rely on the charity of others in the way of meals and the opportunity to panhandle. Many pass themselves off as veterans, but show no interest in taking advantage of opportunities provided by the VA and really don't seem to know very much about the military.

I think I've done my bit for the homeless (and keeping members of my family out of increasing their number), but what I do is something I do voluntarily and where I control how much and when I spend...not something mandated by a non-cost-effective, bloated governmental bureaucracy. Leave 'charity' to those with both an interest in, and an organization capable of supporting the endeavor.

Forgive for being blunt and appearing heartless, but I ask you, "How can you decide what to do about a problem when it is highly probable that you, yourselves, have never personally spoken to any of the people and never participated in any governmental intervention efforts?"

Dale

10/23/2016

I am against the location of the Permanent Men's Shelter in Eastgate south of the Bellevue Community College and next to the Eastgate P&R.

With a low barrier entry (meaning men with history of drug use and mental and other issues) at this shelter, there is going to be a concentrated presence of men with criminal history in the area. .

My young children (1-7yrs) are enrolled in various the Parent/Child community program at the Bellevue Community College. My husband parks and uses the bus from Eastgate P&R every week as late as 11p. My children (perhaps as early as 16yrs) are going to enroll at the Community College in the future. Therefore, I strongly feel that this area for a permanent shelter for homeless men has not been thoroughly vetted keeping the interest of local residents in mind.

I support the need for a shelter for Men with rehabilitation but this is not the location. This location, however, would be great place for a shelter for homeless Family/Single Women (with restrictions) who get to access the Parent Ed classes at the Community College and have the transportation near by.

Tuli Davenport

Bellevue Resident

10/24/2016

I am strongly against the proposed Eastside Men's Shelter. This shelter should not be allowed to move forward without the Eastgate community having the opportunity to vote for or against. The Shelter will negatively impact thousands of

hard-working Bellevue residents, while benefiting a small number of men from throughout the region and state who can't get into any other shelters because of criminal records, sex offences, and drug use. Eastgate is the wrong place for this shelter. If King County must have this shelter, move it to a place where the community supports it, or where it's far enough away from residential neighborhoods that the impacts will be minimal.

Please add me to the interested parties list.

Adam Klein

10/24/2016

Dear Council Members,

Greg & I have lived in our Spiritwood/Robinswood home since 1973. We've raised our daughter here & now entertain 3 grandkids as often as we can. We've seen change & growth all around the Seattle & Eastside areas through the decades, including greater numbers of homeless. I sympathize with their problems / interests.

BUT there are many "interests" to consider- ALL of them your constituents: the homeless, neighborhood families, businesses, schools (including BC)-- all having important stakeholder interests that should have been considered equally in making the decision to place such a major facility in Eastgate.

In 4 decades living in our home, we've never seen the potential for a firestorm of opposition like the major homeless facility you've proposed for Eastgate. And frankly, it's so disappointing that the council set a "default deadline" of Q1, 2017 in its "Letter of Agreement" without engaging constituents during the planning phase of this major project. We have alternatives & modifications to offer that would have less impact on all constituents involved, while still helping the homeless. We urge you to push back the "default deadline" at least to Q4, 2017 as a first step to hosting open-minded planning sessions with the constituent groups you represent. Failing that, this community firestorm will grow, which will also negatively impact the very constituent group the council has prioritized.

Thank you in advance for agreeing to the proposed delay as the important first step towards a workable solution.

Greg & Cheryl Zettler

10/24/2016

We are opposed to the location of the shelter.

1. Too close to the heavily wooded Bellevue College campus which has evening classes and a preschool.
2. Too close to the Park&Ride used by commuters and students of all ages. Sammamish High School students use it to and from school.
3. Too close to the condos adjacent to the college and Park&Ride.
4. Too close to the single family homes across the car and pedestrian overpass from the college and Park&Ride.
5. Too close to the schools in the vicinity: Tyee Middle School, Big Picture and Spiritridge Elementary.
6. Hours of operation- when the day center closes at 5PM, where will the "clients" go until it reopens in the morning? Will they be lingering, loitering around the campus, nearby woods, neighborhoods??? Will this area start looking like the Union Gospel Mission street in Seattle??

Jean and Ed Monell

10/24/2016

Compassion Vs Common Sense is at play here. Put yourselves into the shoes of the people who live directly behind the proposed men's shelter site. If not them, then the 30,000 students that will be impacted or the hundreds of residences and preschool/elementary/middle schools within a very short walk. How would you feel? Would you feel safe? How would your property values be affected? I think it's a very good idea to be compassionate for the homeless, in fact we already have a wonderful women's shelter here in Bellevue. A men's homeless shelter is apples and oranges to women's or a family shelter because of the sex offenders and aggressive men it will attract. If the additional sex offenders are not allowed there, where will they go? Common sense would dictate they'll be lurking in the wooded areas all around our

homes and schools. There are some out there already but this shelter will attract more. Whatever the proposal says, it cannot control who comes seeking shelter and decides to stay in the area even if they can't get in. Also, what happens to those that break rules; right out on their ears into the wooded areas, right? The proposal doesn't put enough protections into place for the community and even if it did, how long could they continue to afford them before budget cuts? I think the city could do a much better job of siting this shelter and insulating our residences and schools from the fall out that common sense indicates is bound to happen as a result of this shelter.

Yvonne Sauter

10/24/2016

How long will men be allowed to stay at the facility and what happens when their time is up? Other facilities allow 90 days and then what?

*Where are the lewd/aggressive, criminal history, sex offenders, mentally imbalanced, chemically influenced homeless men sent when they don't meet the qualifications or break the rules for the shelter?

*Where is the guarantee that this shelter will not attract more homeless sex offenders to Bellevue from outside of Bellevue? What will be done if it does?

*How will home owners and businesses with 2-5 miles be compensated by the city when property values go down and business is impacted?

*How will the shelter be able to police all the wooded areas to ensure homeless men are not setting up camp there and spreading garbage and feces as well as creating a safety situation for trail goers?

*What if the site lacks enough funding or volunteers to support their promises at any given point?

Yvonne Sauter

10/24/2016

My name is Mark Johnson, I am a resident of Eastgate, and I am interested in learning more about the siting process for the Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing. I was unable to attend the meeting held on September 29th, and I unfortunately won't be able to make the October 27th meeting either. I have reviewed much of the materials available online, including those materials available on the Bellevue Human Services website.

Was the meeting on September 29th recorded and is that video available online? Might the October 27th meeting be?

I have many specific questions about project and the process towards making a final decision to site at 14350 SE Eastgate Way, but I'd hate to pepper those on you via email. Is there some other way that I could speak with someone and learn more, have my questions answered?

In the case that there isn't – and email is the best way to have this conversation – is there any statement that you could provide about the following issues:

Steps that would be taken, outside of the general operational polices of the facility itself, to ensure that the area remains safe.

Steps that would be taken to lessen the impact of the development on congestion about the area; Park and Ride in particular, but pedestrian areas generally. Also any steps that would be taken to increase pedestrian accessibility and safety, particularly at night.

Steps that would be taken to protect investment and development plans regarding Eastgate, such that area continues to be regarded as an area of the city for immense potential growth and not solely defined as the location where the shelter and appurtenant services are located.

Thank you sincerely for your time, support, and service.

Mark

10/22/2016

Thanks for reading my email. I have no problem speaking my mind. I do not want a homeless shelter of any kind in Bellevue. Most of the people I know do not want a homeless shelter in Bellevue.

What is going on in Seattle should serve as a learning experience for us on what not to do. Our community should not be enabling this behavior. I'm happy to address the small percentage of folks that have problems and need help. I am not willing to support someone else's lifestyle; particularly a destructive one.

Bellevue is successful because of successful people. We do not need to cater to current political correctness.

Larry E James

10/23/16

I am a resident of Bellevue, living about a half-mile north of Bellevue College. I have become aware of a proposal by Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) to locate a permanent men's shelter in the Eastgate area, near the Public Health offices and the Eastgate Transit Center. This e-mail is to express my strong support for that site.

I became familiar with CFH about a year-and-a-half ago, when my wife Susan and I were asked to accept an assignment from our church to coordinate the church's commitment to provide meals for the CFH year-round shelter during the months of March and August. In addition, we have taken meals to the CFH winter shelter.

I have been impressed with CFH as an organization. Homelessness is one of the most complex social service issues in our community, and CFH is really effective in how they go about addressing that challenge. They have a strong developmental emphasis in their work with clients. There is a clear progression--from the low-barrier shelter to the year-round shelter to transitional housing to full independent living--and they are really good at giving men the support they need to move through that pathway and regain their full dignity and independence. I really trust the CFH staff's judgment about how to manage a program in a way that that minimizes conflict with neighbors and gets good results.

Susan and I were impressed enough that we became donors to CFH. It's always nice to see a non-profit that takes on important challenges and does it well, and we decided that this was a place where we wanted to put some of our own money.

Now, I have worked in and for local governments for a long time, and I know how tough it is to site a homeless shelter. When I was sitting in a meeting of the Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council a month ago and heard that CFH and the City were trying to find a location for a permanent men's shelter, I'll admit that I wondered where it could go without creating a lot of anxious neighbors. And then I saw the map, and I thought, "That's perfect!"

I know that area well--it's close to my neighborhood, and I have walked and ridden my bike around there many times. That location doesn't have close residential neighbors--the closest housing is a multi-family complex that is up the hill and feels a world away. Three of the other proximate neighbors are directly related to services needed by these men who are in the process of getting back on their feet--education, transportation, and health--and the occupants of those facilities are unlikely to feel threatened by a homeless shelter. Another proximate neighbor to that site is a freeway. There is a commercial-type building on that site--I used to take my son to trumpet lessons in that building in past years when it was occupied by Music/Works Northwest. I think that the building is currently occupied by Intellectual Ventures, a commercial use that would have very low risk of conflict with a shelter. And even if the building were still occupied by MusicWorks Northwest, knowing what I know about the CFH organization, I would have no hesitation about taking my kids to music lessons in a building next to a CFH shelter. I really think that in terms of siting a permanent homeless shelter, that location is as good as it gets.

If you have any questions about this e-mail, feel free to contact me at 425-647-4442 (cell) or at gordonwilson1@gmail.com. Our address is 1715 140th Lane SE, Bellevue WA 98007.

Thanks for considering my views on this.

Gordon Wilson

10/23/2016

I am a little concerned about safety of cars being parked in the Eastgate park-and-ride if the proposed men's homeless shelter is started right next door. I am a resident of Woodridge hill and have first hand experience of what happened when a home in our neighborhood was temporarily offered last winter as a sleeping area to the transients from Factoria

area. Immediately we saw a steep rise in car vandalism, and break-ins as well as a few home burglaries. The consensus was, it was the drug and alcohol addicted transients searching for money or anything they could turn into fence for their addiction.

As soon as neighbors met with the police and city officials and got the house closed down, the problems in the surrounding blocks stopped.

Eastgate park-and-ride with its hundreds of unattended cars parked there every day, will become a prime, rich target for such criminal activity.

10/23/16

I'm writing to voice my concerns over the proposed Men's Shelter at Eastgate. I find it alarming that the Council has allowed this matter to progress to this point. The proposed shelter will negatively impact thousands of residents and dozens of businesses located within walking distance of this facility. The City Council is elected to represent its constituents, and to look out for the best interests of the Bellevue community. In this case, the interests of thousands of hard-working Bellevue residents are in danger of being ignored for a facility that would (arguably) benefit a small number of homeless men from across the region, most of whom can not find shelter in other facilities because of a history of violent offences, sex crimes, and active drug use. We should not be placing a facility which will draw this clientele into one of our cherished communities. I urge you to consider the will of the affected community before allowing this proposal to move forward. A referendum for the Eastgate community would be a reasonable first step. A better idea would be to simply deny this proposal and ask the County to re-initiate its search, targeting a location with no residential impacts.

10/26/2016

I'm writing to voice my concerns over the proposed Men's Shelter at Eastgate. I find it alarming that the Council has allowed this matter to progress to this point. The proposed shelter will negatively impact thousands of residents and dozens of businesses located within walking distance of this facility. The City Council is elected to represent its constituents, and to look out for the best interests of the Bellevue community. In this case, the interests of thousands of hard-working Bellevue residents are in danger of being ignored for a facility that would (arguably) benefit a small number of homeless men from across the region, most of whom can not find shelter in other facilities because of a history of violent offences, sex crimes, and active drug use. We should not be placing a facility which will draw this clientele into one of our cherished communities. I urge you to consider the will of the affected community before allowing this proposal to move forward. A referendum for the Eastgate community would be a reasonable first step. A better idea would be to simply deny this proposal and ask the County to re-initiate its search, targeting a location with no residential impacts.

At the mean time, as a Bellevue lone time resident, I have never received any notification or discussions regarding this plan. This plan was neither reported in the news paper 'Bellevue Report' which we receive periodically.

Beatrice Hu

10/26/16

I'm contacting you regarding the Men's Low-Barrier Homeless Shelter currently being planned for construction next to the Eastgate Park & Ride.

First, I'd like to thank you for proposing at the 10/17/16 city council meeting to put the shelter issue on the city council meeting agenda in an effort to get more public feed back to the council members. We need a public hearing about this. I believe that the public has hardly been involved in this proposal by the city council. There exist conflicting facts provided by the council as well as limited information about the shelter. Bellevue residents need to be heard and want to help push toward alternate sites and/or solutions.

I believe that the current site under consideration next to the Eastgate Park & Ride creates a huge safety issue for students at Bellevue College, especially female students. As wooded and dark as that campus is at night, it's a big

problem waiting to happen. In the winter months especially when it gets dark at 4:30pm, commuters will be more at risk from the 150 – 200 homeless men who are projected to be headed to the shelter.

In addition, businesses and housing values will be negatively impacted.

I do not believe that this site in Bellevue should be the magnet for homeless men from our neighboring cities, i.e., Kirkland, Sammamish, Redmond, and Renton.

What I want to see from the Bellevue City Council is the following:

- **More time for review.** This means including residents, business owners, and the city council to come to a cooperative decision.

- **Finding the right place** for such a shelter.

- **Defining the right restrictions/rules** for the low barrier shelter program and it's participants.

I do believe that we need to find solutions to the homeless problem in Bellevue. Those solutions must include plans for transitioning from drug addiction, treatment for mental health, and planning for helping people find work. But we need to have the public fully involved to help find a safer location, and a location that does not negatively impact residents and local businesses.

My wife and I plan to attend the upcoming city council meetings in order to help promote the goals I've outlined above. I ask that you too will push for these same goals.

One paragraph about us: Our family has lived in Bellevue for 21 years at the address below. My wife and I have raised our two boys, now 24 and 21 years old. My oldest son graduated last December from the University of Washington with a Master's degree in Computer Science. My youngest son is in his third year at the University of Washington planning to graduate with his degree in Computer Science in June of 2018. My wife Dawn taught kindergarten and second grade in Seattle for seven years and is currently an instructional assistant at Woodridge Elementary School working in the Cascade program. I was the Scoutmaster for Boy Scout troop 640 from 2002-2008 at the Eastgate Bible Fellowship church. I was also the Scoutmaster for troop 626 from 2008 – 2010, which meets at Tyee Middle School. Both of my sons are Eagle Scouts. We continue to have a vested interest in our community and want to see Bellevue remain the safe community that our family was able to experience.

Jim Black

10/27/2016

I just wanted to take a moment to write and let you know that I support the Bellevue shelter, day center and housing proposal.

As a long time service provider on the eastside I know that as housing prices have surged all over the Puget Sound, especially in Bellevue and the surrounding cities, it is more and more difficult for low-income families to find stable and affordable housing. More and more families are being forced out of their homes and literally have nowhere to go.

This hurts our whole community.

I urge to you do your part to make sure that no one sleeps outside.

We need a place for everyone.

Elizabeth Harrison

10/27/2016

To Whom It May Consider ~

I would like to respectfully request that you reconsider the location of the Eastgate Homeless Men's Shelter. Build the shelter in a more industrialized area of town, away from neighborhoods and schools. I worked in Downtown Seattle for years and had to battle the gauntlet of aggressive homeless individuals on my way to the bus on 1st Avenue. (On a separate positive note, I used to walk home from UW at 1am from my job, and the 2 homeless men who stayed nearby, always looked out for me).

I don't want to see Eastgate turn into downtown Seattle, where I'm afraid to enter the park and ride or walk down the sidewalk. The fact that this is a low barrier shelter concerns me even more. If the men were vetted against sexual

offenses and major criminal offenses, I would feel much better. Allowing visibly high and drunk men into the facility is also questionable. Rewarding negative behavior?

Thank you for taking the time to reconsider our neighborhood's situation. Please consider another area more industrialized and less populated.

Kate Burch

10/27/16

I am a single mother with 2 children, who recently purchased a townhome in the very close vicinity of the planned Eastgate homeless shelter. I have not moved in, yet and I had no knowledge of such facility when I decided to purchase the home. My 13-year-old son goes to Big Picture School across the street from Robinswood Park. He is excited to be able to walk to his school every day. He also practices soccer at Robinswood park, which he is planning to walk to. I also have a 10 year old who likes to ride his bike and is excited about riding around the neighborhood. We decided to buy the home because it seemed like a very safe community (I like the fact that it is not gated - it means that it's in a safe neighborhood) and I would really hate to see that changing due to the building of the shelter. The homes in Bellevue area are not, by any means, affordable, and the people who choose to live in Bellevue stretch themselves to buy properties here so that the kids can get good education and grow up in a very safe neighborhood. I believe that is what we are paying for. I also believe that thousands of people who park their cars at Eastgate Park & Ride everyday to commute to Seattle will feel less confident about their safety once the shelter is built. Same goes to 12,000 Bellevue College students - many of them are from overseas who live in nearby apartments and either take a bus to or walk to BC. For these reasons, I would really hope that the City of Bellevue will reconsider the building of this future shelter. I will attend the community meeting tonight to learn more about where we are, tonight. But I thought I would share my thoughts at this point.

Asako Anderson

10/27/2016

As a Bellevue resident, homeowner and taxpayer, I was very surprised to learn that the city is planning to allow a permanent men's shelter near my home and next to my area P&R.

First, the Eastgate P&R is beyond capacity, since I do not commute regular hours (after 9AM) I am unable to find a parking space for my vehicle and with the Bellevue Way P&R closing, I imagine that problem will only get worse. And now with ST3 proposed to the Eastside, I had assumed MORE parking would be created near I-90. This location would seem to be the obvious choice for building additional parking for connecting.

Second, the Mountains to Sound trail runs directly behind our development. In the past few years I have seen traffic increase on the trail, mainly bicycle commuters but also men lingering with shopping carts, men entering/exiting the wooded areas, dumping, and drug activity. Why, in a time when our area is experiencing extreme growth, would Bellevue choose to put a low-barrier shelter in the path of what could be better and safer commuting routes. If you need proof that men from the shelter will spread to the surrounding areas, all you need is to visit downtown Seattle.

I support affordable housing, especially for women and families, but to house mentally ill, sex offenders, or drug-addicts near homes, schools, transportation hubs at the cost of working families is not a solution for all, only a few. I think an industrial area like Tukwila or the Kent Valley would be better suited for job opportunities, otherwise if Bellevue is so willing to build this shelter, it should be next to City Hall.

I will attend the meeting tonight at the Champions Centre in hopes of bringing the voice of our surrounding community opposed to this proposal. I appreciate you considering my input on this matter.

Mercy Sommer

Bellevue Resident, Homeowner and Parent

10/27/2016

I just returned from the Homeless Shelter Community meeting and would like to thank you for organizing this meeting and providing us an opportunity to learn more and ask questions. It was especially helpful to have an open public QA

session where people could hear all answers and responses. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to ask my questions so I am really hoping I can get my question answered via email and receive a definitive answer.

Today we were all educated on other locations that were considered and criteria that were used to select the most appropriate location. However, as we could hear today the majority of people didn't know about this project and many people still have no idea this proposal is being discussed. Given those locations were discussed without community involvement, I have two questions:

1. Would you be willing to go back to step 1 and re-evaluate all locations including the currently proposed location but let public participate in the evaluation process?
2. Would you be willing to work with local communities to redefine criteria that was used for selection of those locations to ensure their input is considered in such an important matter?

If you are willing to support these requests I, and many others, would be more than happy to dedicate personal time to help with this process and complete it as swiftly as possible.

Olga

10/27/2016

We are writing to oppose the proposal for a men's shelter near 148th and I-90. We have been reading about the proposal online and it is clear that the shelter will make the surrounding neighborhood less safe and reduce property values in the vicinity. The Council certainly understands that it is impossible to run a drop-in shelter where the temporary residents are effectively vetted. Comprehensive background checks take several days and cannot be executed during the daily admissions process at a shelter. While many of the residents will be honest people who have fallen on hard times, there will also be drug addicts, sex offenders, and mentally ill people using the shelter. Some of these occupants will travel into the surroundings areas and create safety concerns at local businesses, Bellevue College, Robinswood park, Eastside Christian School, and neighboring homes. The city claims a low crime rate (<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/about-bellevue.htm>). The Council needs to act judiciously to ensure that this promise is not degraded. Bellevue residents, shoppers, businesses, and students need to have confidence that their physical safety and their property values are not being compromised by the Council's work.

Over a 1000 people have signed the petition against this proposal, and the discussions on NextDoor for one posting on this topic are over 300. It is clear that citizens are very concerned and want a better solution that doesn't put the men's shelter so close to homes, schools, and parks. We urge you to look at other options that address these concerns and provides a safer alternative.

Kathryn Kitchen & A.J. Schwab

10/28/2016

Thank you very much for leading a very good meeting. It was not an easy task, I can tell.

Speaking just as myself, I cannot help thinking that at the bottom of this problem lies the fact that our society doesn't do more to prevent people from getting homeless in the first place. Much would be gained if we realized that it is cheaper, better for the people involved and much more efficient to help citizens in danger of eviction pay for their rent.

This evening's audience was ticked off because:

They felt that our townhome condos did not count as "single family homes" and worthy of consideration when placing a homeless shelter. I feel that myself, though these units sell for \$400,000 - \$800,000 and beyond.

Not being told about the homeless shelter plans (and finding out by coincidence) creating the overall impression that the city/King County are trying to sneak something through before the residents get their acts together. Overall lack of transparency.

The overall size of the homeless shelter and adjacent apartments etc. seems overwhelming. 150+ homeless men here all of a sudden. 10-20 at a time would have been different.

The city should send out a well thought out letter to **all** residents, businesses and schools within a 2 mile radius explaining the situation. Bellevue College is good at doing that.

We will help find other places for the homeless, even help raise money to pay for buying a non-King County plot of land if need be.

What we all want more than anything is more time to sort it all out, not feeling rushed into a permanent decision in a hurry.

Thank you. You did a fantastic job at representing all sides and concerns and leading the meeting. And it was not easy.

-Birgit, Harmony #20

10/28/2016

I was at the Bellevue meeting tonight. It was a good meeting. We need more of them. Almost everyone who spoke said they knew nothing about the plans to build a men's shelter in Eastgate or anywhere in Bellevue. That they felt the city was trying to leave them out and do this "behind their backs".

I hope towards the end of the evening they began to realize that the city officials were standing in front of all present there tonight to get everyone's opinion and listen to everyone's fears and concerns. Basically I see the same thing everywhere, people are not interested or care about the issue of homelessness until it suddenly comes to their own neighborhood. Then they are concerned about property values and family safety.

We need more of these meetings to educate people and make them realize that because a person is homeless does not mean he is a threat to their community. I support more shelters and housing for people who are homeless. I believe it is our duty as concerned citizens if nothing else to help them. I think the CFH is doing a remarkable job and want to get involved with what they are doing. Bellevue Police are to be commended for all they have done to try to get the Bellevue community to see the homeless situation and how desperately these people need our help, men and women and children...

I am horrified at what is happening in Renton and will be writing to Renton City Council to get them to outlaw this kind of discrimination.

Thanks you for sending this Action Alert to me. Please continue to update me.

Dee Cappelletti

10/28/2016

I am writing to offer my support for siting a shelter in the Eastgate area of Bellevue and for providing robust services at this location for those experiencing homelessness.

I have lived in Bellevue for 11 years. During that time there has been a lot of change including rising housing costs and more individuals, including families, being displaced. I was unable to attend last night's community meeting on the subject of the proposed shelter and want to add my voice to those offering support to create new affordable and supportive housing for those experiencing homelessness. I am thankful that the County is partnering with the city and community partners such as Congregations for the Homeless to make this happen.

I am raising two daughters. As they age, they are increasingly paying attention to their environment and public policy discussions close to home that affect the community they live in. I want them to continue to grow up in a city (and county) that shows compassion for the vulnerable and disenfranchised. I want them to feel proud when they say they're from Bellevue; a city that not only has great schools and is a "city in a park" but is also a city of individuals and a government of elected officials that does the right thing.

It is better for everyone when we don't leave people living outside. We have an opportunity to step up and step in to be part of the solution. I live within a mile of the Eastgate Public Health Department location - the proposed site for the shelter. I use the park n ride located just across the parking lot from the health department five days a week to get to work; my high schooler is there five days a week too as she uses Metro to get to her school. I welcome the siting of a shelter on this land owned by King County and shared with the Public Health Department.

Your service as an elected official is to all constituents not just those who have the time, energy, and know-how to make their voices heard. Thank you for the work you do to ensure the needs of all Bellevue residents (those housed and not housed) are addressed in a compassionate, fiscally sound, and inclusive manner.

Noel Rees

10/29/2016

Thank you for hosting an informative session on the proposed Eastgate Homeless Shelter. I've been following along through the Bellevue Reporter, and really appreciated the depth of information at the Oct. 27 workshop and from the handouts. I learned a lot!

Based on Dan Stroh's presentation on the site evaluation process, the Eastgate site seems like a good fit for the shelter, given the access to transit and services. I encourage the City to collaborate with Congregations for the Homeless to work through the Eastgate neighborhood's concerns about operations. Based on what I heard and read in the FAQs, it sounds like CFH is open to community input and is continuously improving their operations. Is there another workshop opportunity where operations and other substantive issues can be discussed? In addition, it makes sense to work with Bellevue College to help improve lighting and inform their students about the shelter.

As Dan said – this shelter will help solve an Eastside homeless problem.

Diann Strom

10/29/2016

I attended both the Bellevue City Council's briefing on this plan in August, and the public meeting held on Sept. 29th, and have carefully looked over all the material given out at those meetings and put up on Bellevue's website. I have followed the local responses to homelessness and observed their varying efficacy and lack thereof for over a decade. I have some thoughts and questions about what I have seen in general, and this plan in particular.

The materials for this plan give statistics on successful transition into more permanent housing, but those statistics are from the Congregations for Homeless (CFH) program shelter program, an entirely different program which is not low barrier and which has different operating procedures. That is somewhat misleading I think. Why not provide statistics from the few years of similar low barrier winter shelter which they have operated here in Bellevue, or from similarly low barrier shelters nearby? Such statistics are I know hard to come by, as data keeping is resisted by some. But I have seen some statistics in reports from the Committee to End Homelessness (now All Home). I have also seen some "goals" in a recent contract for such shelters in King County. They show much lower rates of success and expected success (one as low as 5%!), and would seem to indicate that this population in general is very slow to move on. I think the plans need to take more account of that.

This "low barrier program" is described as "come as you are", harm reduction and behavior based. As far as entry, it would seem to be a no barrier shelter. New residents need only "complete an application". No ID is required or checked, so they are relying entirely on self-report. Even the sex offender checks, which are the only ones they say they do, would presumably have to be based on the self-report of correct names. This would seem to be a potentially problematic loophole. They also do not do any sort of check for outstanding warrants, felony or not. The material says they will make sure residents are "in compliance with the law". But you would have to know about their status as SO's or with outstanding warrants to do that, and the operators will seemingly only know if the residents choose to tell them. Same with drug or alcohol use, domestic violence history, criminal backgrounds etc. You can't monitor or help improve things you don't know about. There are such things as programs to help get ID if necessary, and help dealing with warrants if not serious. I think these should be part of what is offered, and ID should be checked to determine what kinds of issues there are that need to be addressed. It would appear that geographical connection is accepted on self-report also, which may or may not be accurate.

The material says they don't tolerate drug use, violence or bad behavior on site or directly adjacent, but they will allow them to be in the shelter while high, intoxicated etc. In my personal experience this may just push these undesirable

behaviors into areas around the shelter and the city, where the shelter staff will not be monitoring. The police are great, but they cannot be everywhere so there will be impacts on others in surrounding neighborhoods, parks, etc. The plan needs to adjust to mitigate that. The plan also claims to prohibit loitering in the surrounding areas, but in my experience this is very difficult to control, and I would like much more detail on how this will be controlled. They seem to admit when they say their residents may be panhandling that they can't really control what their residents do outside of their facility and grounds.

The materials claim "no increase in crime over background levels" I have however, heard of crimes directly connected to the existing Winter Shelter. It would help to admit and deal with these problems and not try to bury them in wider statistics.

These materials describe a very purposeful decision to avoid using what is being provided as any sort of leverage to induce change in behaviors. As a long-time student of Psychology I find this troubling. They put a lot of emphasis on forming relationships and using those to try and effect change. And that may work with some. But that can go both ways. Relationships can also be manipulated and used to avoid change and enable continuation of the same maladaptive behaviors. I would like to hear more about any data that supports this particular aspect, and see a more balanced and nuanced approach that doesn't make assumptions that all residents will respond in the same way.

The material also says the day shelter will not just be for homeless, but for all "seeking services". Do you anticipate any problem of potential overcapacity, and do you have a plan to prevent or deal with that?

Also, I find the frequent emphasis on this being part of a "regional solution" interesting. We are told that Bellevue should host a large shelter and day shelter for single homeless men, the most problematic of the various homeless sub-populations, and the surrounding cities will host women, women with children and teens (or they will just contribute money or moral support). But Bellevue already has other programs to help other homeless groups, and more coming online. I am not necessarily opposed to Bellevue stepping up and setting an example, but I feel we need to get more firm commitment from surrounding Eastside cities and areas that they will be stepping up more also. There need to be formal agreements that make sure everyone is equally involved and accountable. And our sister cities need to allow Bellevue to formulate its own regulations to deal with its unique issues.

Karen Morris

10/31/2016

AS A RETIRED BELLEVUE PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS THOUGH I ADMIT TO NOT HAVING READ EXTENSIVELY ABOUT THE PROPOSAL. I LIVE IN ROBINSWOOD ADJACENT TO THE ROBINSWOOD PARK AND FOR DECADES HAVE OBSERVED THE HIGH YOUTH USAGE OF THIS PARK. WOULD WE BE INCREASING THE RISK OF A CONCENTRATION OF POTENTIAL PREDATORS WITH THIS PROPOSAL? THIS AREA HAS A VERY HIGH USE FOR WALKING TRAILS IN THE PARK AND ADJACENT TRAIL. I HAVE A SIMILAR CONCERN FOR SAFETY. HOW ARE THE HOMELESS SCREENED? WOULD A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK BE DONE? WOULD SUCH A RECORD ELIMINATE A CANDIDATE? I UNDERSTAND THE SAFETY NEED FOR THE HOMELESS BUT IT WOULD NOT BE WISE TO SHIFT THE NEED TO OUR YOUTH. PLEASE PLACE ME ON THE EMAIL LIST AS AN INTERESTED PARTY.

Larry

10/31/2016

Count me as one more resident and homeowner completely against the shelter you will build here in Bellevue. It's a terrible idea. These shelters merely attract more homeless -- from the region, from other parts of the country, and from people who are homed but, with enough of a net, will give up what they consider thankless jobs and useless norms. Most of the homeless have the option to live in a home and choose not to.

I was strongly for moving away from this area. This weekend I mellowed on that a bit. Now, I'm even more strongly for it.

Christopher Carlin

10/31/2016

Thank you for ruining my neighborhood!

I appreciated the opportunity to invest in a decent home, in a decent neighborhood, so that you could come in and destroy my property value, and endanger my family with your reckless placement of this Drug and Violent Sex Offender Resort. It's great! I can't wait to see degenerate scum walking my neighborhood, spreading crime and disease, raping women and children, and otherwise spreading the glow of their reckless life choices. You're a peach! The council are a basket of peachy-keen awesomeness!

There are plenty of Park and Rides in the Eastside. How about the Park and Rides near rich people? How about a nice degenerate scum of the earth hostel right next door to you and members of the City Council? Naw, that' won't happen, will it? Your health and safety are too important.

When my neighbors and I to hire a private security force to patrol my neighborhood, do I contact you and the council directly for payment? Similarly, when women and children are raped and murdered, do we contact you for counseling and funeral services?

G. Prill

11/1/2016

How about adding every homeowner and resident who will adversely be affected by this disastrous decision? I know I didn't receive any notice that Bellevue was considering installing this Drug and Violent Sex Offender Resort and Spa near my home, so I'm sure other people are similarly situated.

In fact, canvassing my neighborhood last night I found a single person who knew about the Drug and Violent Sex Offender Resort and Spa, and the only reason why he knew that dangerous and degenerate transients were going to be imported into our community was because someone he knows on the Westside of town told him in passing; I guess the council's real constituents, the people who write fat campaign checks, and host fancy campaign events were given the old "wink and nod" that their families weren't going to be endangered by itinerant vagabonds roaming their neighborhoods.

City of Bellevue has awakened a sleeping giant of angry citizens tired of being stepped on, abused, and ignored. We will fight this evil plan to destroy our community.

Greg Prill

11/1/2016

I am writing to you, in your role as the point of contact, for community outreach to nearby residents regarding the proposed Eastgate permanent homeless shelter. I am very disappointed in the manner that I learned about Bellevue City Council's vote to partner with Imagine Housing and Congregations for the Homeless to build a proposed permanent homeless shelter near our neighborhood. It is unacceptable that the community is learning about this proposal via King 5 News six months after the vote. I would expect that Bellevue City Council would have more respect for the voters, taxpayers, and residents of Bellevue and not allow communication of such a delicate issue to be handled that way.

I hope that it wasn't an intentional oversight, to keep the community in the dark until plans were so far down the path, that we could not have an impact for change.

I am opposed to having a permanent homeless shelter in our neighborhood and do not want to have a site that draws additional homeless to the area. We only have to look across the bridges to Seattle to see how out of control the situation can become. Seattle parks and athletic play fields are unusable by taxpayers, as they have been overtaken by tents and drug users. Walking down the street is no longer safe, as homeless people lurk in the shadows, and ransack cars where they are parked. By proposing a large facility on a bus line, this shelter would draw Seattle's homeless into our community, and when those people failed to meet the criteria for admittance, would result in similar tent cities under our bridges, in our ravines, and near our children.

I am reaching out to my neighbors, (many of whom have children that attend schools that are walking distance from the proposed shelter site, who were drawn to Bellevue for its quality of life and safety) to protest this proposal. Of course, as you know, we are handicapped by not having awareness of the situation for several months. I assure you, however

that this is not a popular decision and there will be public resistance from our community. The families in 98006 work hard for the security and safety of our families, and will be sure to support/vote for representatives that carry forward our ideals.

Danielle Winter

11/2/2016

I am in support of a permanent shelter in Bellevue for men who are homeless.

Congregations for the Homeless Men has a 2/3 success rate of men leaving homelessness. They are offer a "hand up" not a "hand out." I have heard that a society is judged by how it treats it's most vulnerable.

Let Bellevue stand for helping the homeless to help themselves.

Pam Karp

11/2/2016

This is Marshall, who lives in Eastgate area. I recently heard Bellevue is planning to build a men's shelter, located at: 14350 SE Eastgate Way, Bellevue, WA, 98007. I have strong concerns about the safety issues this project may impact.

Below are some reasons:

1. Low barrier shelter

This will be a low barrier shelter, which means the person lives here may under influence of drugs or alcohol or have criminal records. This may bring more safety issues to this area. People live here may have aggressive behavior, like threats or theft to support drugs or alcohol. They may even do sexual criminal again near the community. Identify those people take times, and before that, they may still live in the shelter.

2. Close to transit center

Close to transit center may bring more flexibility to people live in the shelter to find a job. But it also means people can escape via public transit after criminal behavior. And if they do that, it's hard to catch them again.

3. Close to Bellevue college

There are more than 30,000 students in Bellevue college. So many of them are women or teenagers. They are defenseless against those aggressive behavior.

4. Close to Eastgate Parking & Ride

Eastgate P&R is an important transit center and there are hundreds cars parking there every day. The parking building doesn't have enough security monitors to prevent criminal from happening there. Thus, if people do criminal there, it's hard for police to identify the suspect.

5. Walking distance to single house community

Although it's trying to avoid single family residential areas, it's still only take 10 minutes walk from the shelter to single family area.

Based on above reasons, I strongly recommend the city government to reconsider the men's shelter location.

Marshall

11/2/2016

Having served as a houseparent in a boy's home (1970-1973), volunteered at Denny Place Shelter (2003-2006), volunteered at Jubilee Reach (2007-2016), I am writing in support of the proposed permanent homeless shelter in Bellevue, to be run by Congregations for the Homeless. It is important that we provide adequate resources and support for our most vulnerable populations, and the record of CFH speaks for itself in its success at moving people out of homelessness permanently. We need a permanent shelter in Bellevue.

Hugh F. McCall

11/2/2016

Please support a permanent homeless shelter in Bellevue.

When I was in Ireland this year (September) the Irish that were willing to talk to me about my country wanted to talk about why such a rich country as America has so many homeless people. Each person had visited in the states, and been amazed at the homeless people they saw. My eyes were opened, and I see them better now. Not only in "the jungle" as I drive down I-5, but in our town and around town. A friend has a homeless couple living in a blackberry bramble in an abandoned lot next to her home.

I believe we can do better, and a permanent homeless shelter in Bellevue will be one part of addressing this persistent and troubling problem. I think private effort is also important, and will continue to support the work my church is doing to support homeless people and help them to a stable home situation.

Anne Korsmo

11/2/2016

I am a deacon at Bellevue Presbyterian Church.

We had a meeting last evening with a presentation by two gentlemen from Congregations for the Homeless. As I'm sure you are aware, our church provides temporary shelter and meals for homeless men during the month of December. It came to our attention that the plans for a permanent shelter are under attack.

I speak for myself that I am ashamed that I live in one of the richest cities in the world but we are unable to express compassion for the homeless by providing for the basic needs of our community members.

I am ashamed that I have not done my part in working to support our brothers and sisters. I am ashamed that we have homeless people of all ages among us.

Please do whatever you can to support this project. And please let me know if there is anything I can do to support you in your efforts.

Thank you for your service to our neighborhoods.

Linda C. Grover

11/2/2016

I am writing in support of the proposed permanent homeless shelter in Bellevue, to be run by Congregations for the Homeless. The record of CFH has shown its success in moving people out of homelessness permanently. There is a real need for a permanent shelter in Bellevue.

Syble and Russ Ferguson

11/2/2016

Dear City Council,

I'm against the plan to build a homeless men's shelter at Eastgate, along with over 1800 Bellevue residents who signed a petition. I'm very disappointed that the city planned the shelter project without much involvement of the nearby neighborhoods and their residents.

Many reasons are given in the petition on why the planned shelter is a bad idea and I don't want to repeat them here again. However, I would like to know what does it take for the city to rethink and stop the project? How many signatures in a petition are needed? What else can the residents/tax payers do to make the city reconsider? Or is it that the petition does not matter and you will proceed with the project anyway?

Please let me know.

Lin Song

22 year Bellevue resident

11/3/2016

I'm writing to encourage the City of Bellevue and King County to continue their quest to create a permanent Eastside shelter for men experiencing homelessness.

After 37 years in the software industry, including 20+ at Microsoft, I retired in 2014 to go to cooking school. I graduated from Le Cordon Bleu, and the experience opened my eyes to a segment of the community that was previously out-of-sight. Two of my classmates at Le Cordon Bleu lived in tents, and several others lived in trailers or cars. After graduating, I volunteered at the Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) men's day center in downtown Bellevue 2 days a week. I prepared and served meals for 40-70 men: breakfast and lunch. It's a low-barrier facility, and after 80+ days there I now know 60 chronically homeless men in Bellevue by name. I am very aware of their need. It is embarrassing that some of them beg in Bellevue. It is so wasteful that they sometimes clog the Overlake Hospital emergency room, but they have no other options. A permanent shelter co-located with health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and easy connection to transportation would be so much better.

As you know, CFH lost their lease to the day center when the First Congregational Church building was sold. I un-retired and returned to Microsoft, where I'm hoping that larger donations will be worth more than my volunteer time as a cook. My wife and I also have supported Catholic Community Services of Western Washington and Hopelink for over 20 years. Poverty prevention is crucial, as is timely rehousing.

I attended the community meeting at the Champions Center on Oct 27 where the community discussed the possible new shelter site. Many of the questions seemed to assume that this new site would attract homeless men into the community. Having volunteered with CFH, I understand these men are already in our neighborhoods. I'm convinced the community would be safer overall if these men were inside a shelter at night instead of out on the streets or in the bushes or under bridges. The "not-in-my-backyard" attitude of some neighbors is predictable. I hope that extended and on-going dialogue will help these neighbors realize that the community will be safer and stronger overall if we give these men a safe place to stay and a place where they can get the treatment they need to recover.

Vince Orgovan

20+ year Bellevue homeowner

11/3/2016

I am writing in support of the proposed permanent homeless shelter in Bellevue, to be run by Congregations for the Homeless. It is important that we provide adequate resources and support for our most vulnerable populations, and the record of CFH speaks for itself in its success at moving people out of homelessness permanently. We need a permanent shelter in Bellevue.

Thank you for your support of this cause

Vicky Joslin

11/3/2016

I am writing to you to support the siting of a permanent homeless center in Bellevue. As a Medina resident and being a member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church which houses homeless men for the month July, I know how important this project can be. Please know that there are many of us in support of a 'yes' vote.

Alyce Rogers

11/3/2016

Thank you for your continued support to help care for the growing number of homeless folks in our fair city. I have been a volunteer for Congregations for the Homeless for several years and do my best obtaining food from local grocers and assist in preparing and serving those who have no resources.

I am not sure who I would reach out to regarding the temporary shelter at the Lincoln Center. Perhaps you can help. Have you seen it? I went to deliver food and I was so disappointed to learn that this is the best that Bellevue can provide. No bathroom, no hot water? How are we to clean what we use to serve our clients? All food handling requirements are not going to be met. Is that okay? Should these people be treated less than how we would treat or care for someone in our family? No bathroom?? It is my understanding that there is a bathroom for all the other paying tenants. And, clients can not enter thru the front door. They have to enter thru the back? Really?? Bellevue should be

ashamed that this is the best they can do for treating our poor like 2nd class citizens. I have lived in Bellevue for over 30 years and I know that my neighbors and all those who live and pay taxes here would be surprised to know the conditions that the city is offering. CFH is paying a very decent rent for this location. Where is it written in any rental contract that these people are to be treated different than any other paying tenant in the same building because they are homeless. Please forgive me for unloading on you. I encourage any of the City of Bellevue departments to serve these folks one night as a team building experience. You leave feeling like you were given a gift. Most of those we serve are so appreciative. Can you please let me know the correct contact in your office. I think that the general public who live and reside on the east side would be surprised to learn that this is the best that our great city is willing to do. And, take a monthly rent to treat people so poorly.

I would appreciate your response so I can perhaps learn who to contact rather than dialing thru the City of Bellevue directory. I am determined to help these folks and those of us who serve them in a way that shows that our city cares.
Gina Barker

11/3/2016

As someone who has served dinner and talked in detail to those that utilize the services and warm meals at the CFH Winter Shelter, I'm grateful the City of Bellevue is about to make a giant commitment to a real solution for those that live unsheltered. There are many reasons why our fellow man becomes unsheltered but only one way to turn that situation into a road better traveled.

Again, Thank you for the leadership to make this a reality.

Larry Snyder

To whom much is given,
much will be required. Luke 12:48

11/3/2016

I am fully in support of the CFH proposed permanent Homeless Men's Shelter at Eastgate. I am familiar with CFH programs and very impressed with their results and the respect with which they treat the clients. We already have a homeless problem in the Eastgate area that people are unaware of because they are so good at being "invisible". The shelter will get the men off the streets, out of their cars, and out of the woods into a safe environment. CFH will guide the men to housing and independence. I contribute to CFH and to The Sophia Way and work with homeless women as a volunteer with clothing.

Cheryl Jurrus

11/3/2016

To Whom it May Concern,

We certainly hope that this plan will be able to come to fruition as it is so needed and so sad for those caught in the web of homelessness. It will give those who sincerely want to improve their situation, an opportunity to do that. Wouldn't it be wonderful if there was a day in the future when this help wouldn't be needed. That isn't ever going to happen, of course, but maybe our current epidemic of homelessness can be helped and the numbers of those in need, greatly reduced. Hopefully every life needing a boost will get it and it seems that the east side is definitely headed in the right direction. Frank and Nancy Kato, Newcastle, WA

11/3/2016

I am in full support of your work to site a new, permanent shelter near the Eastgate Park & Ride lot. I understand that many of the men have run into some terrible luck and/or have made some poor decisions to end up in their situation. All of our lives are on somewhat of a tight rope of luck and we could falter into a situation similar to what these men experience. It is our responsibility to provide a service like CFH to help these men find a safe place to sleep, shower, and clean their clothes so that they can find work and figure a way out of homelessness.

The location of the shelter is perfect for several reasons:

1. Close proximity to regional transit - these men work and they need to save every penny to be able to eventually get into an apartment. Not owning a vehicle is key to saving money, but it requires heavy dependence on transit. This location is perfect because they can get to most locations within King County for employment, legal services, and county services.
2. Close to Bellevue College. Some of these men need to cross-train to learn a new career or gain education to enter the workforce at a higher pay rate so they can afford housing. Being adjacent to the college is perfect for these men. What about the sex offenders, addicts, and mentally ill? They are all around us all the time in every situation. Homeless people are not sex offender, addicts, and mentally ill. CFH and the Bellevue police department are working together to be sure the local area is as safe as possible. I think a local education program would be valuable to help people understand that these men are not out to hurt people. They need help and are appreciative.
3. Close to retail centers and services. This helps the men feel stable. The stability is what they need to feel grounded in their life and work toward a plan to be self supportive. It is important for people to understand that the shelter is intended as a temporary situation for each person who stays. Everyone of the men are looking for a way out of the shelter and into an apartment. These men are homeless and the current program has their shelter moving to a new location each month. This complicates their travel to work, to retail, to day shelter, and to their services. Having a permanent shelter near transit, retail, and education is a perfect situation.
4. There is a strong local support group from CFH, local churches, and local businesses will continue to volunteer to help the men and provide them with companionship as they work their way into a new start.

I understand some of the fear people feel because I had the same feeling before I started volunteering with the men. They are real people. They are human beings who need help getting through a tough spot in their lives. I support your decision to investigate and hopefully build a permanent shelter for men experiencing homelessness at the Eastgate Public Health site.

Michael Horntvedt

11/3/2016

We support your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue and love the work CFH is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks for being a farsighted council.

Frank & Tu Pease, Bellevue residents

11/3/2016

To the members of the Bellevue City Council: I am a member at Bellevue UCC where we have worked with CFH over the years. It seems to me this shelter near Eastgate is an incredibly wonderful opportunity to take a next step in dealing with homelessness on our doorsteps.

The monthly shelter is at our church right now, which gives us the time to hear the stories of the men and offer them our love and hope. The permanent shelter would carry this even further.

I hope you continue to work toward its completion. Thank you for your efforts so far. Sincerely, Margaret Snell

11/3/2016

Quick email to state my support to setting up permanent homeless shelter as a replacement for the winter shelter. I volunteer every year providing dinner once a month to homeless during winter and I see firsthand how they would benefit from having a permanent place.

Karla

11/3/2016

I've seen firsthand how the homeless men in Bellevue and the eastside come to the eastside winter shelter at night. Congregations for the Homeless does a great job managing that shelter, but it is obvious that a permanent facility

is needed; one that can operate during the day as well as at night. Please do whatever you can to help that facility become a reality. It is so desperately needed!

Dan Walker, Kirkland

11/3/2016

I'd like to let you know that I support your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue and love the work CFH is doing to help men move out of homelessness. I've volunteered to bring dinner and other needed items to the shelter and had the opportunity to sit and talk with some of these men. It's very obvious how some of these people just need a little help, a little push in some bad times in their lives to get back on their feet. And the CFH staff at the shelter are a lot of times like family to these men.

Thank you for providing a permanent shelter and several other services to all these men. I'll be glad to bring my kids back again and show them how we can all make a difference in someone's life!

Clara Fernandes

11/3/2016

"We support your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue and love the work CFH is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks for being a farsighted council."

There has been talk among neighbors that locating the shelter near the Eastgate park and ride will devalue property and make our neighborhoods unsafe. However we trust that CFH and our city council will make this shelter a positive thing for both the neighborhood and the people it will serve. People who need help, first and foremost, need to be respected as human beings. Putting the shelter in a far-away industrial area or near the dump speaks volumes about that. The current site seems like a great place, a convenient place, an easy place to make a new start. Kudos for getting this project started...we hope it succeeds.

The Bolopue Family

11/3/2016

We support your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue and love the work CFH is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks for being a farsighted council. We hope you will continue to work toward the day when the root causes of most homelessness for both men and women (and their children) have been eliminated. Then the spigot will have been turned off...

Trish Rogers and Tony Copes

"Lord, grant me the company of those who seek truth, and protect me from those who have found it."

Sir Thomas More

11/3/2016

I am writing in support of the proposed permanent homeless shelter in Bellevue, to be run by Congregations for the Homeless. I have volunteered to help serve meals to the homeless men served by CFH every December for many years and I can tell you that it is a wonderful organization with a very well run professional program. It is important that we provide adequate resources and support for these men and others like them into the future, and the record of CFH speaks for itself in its success at moving people out of homelessness permanently. I believe we need a permanent shelter in Bellevue.

Thank you for your time,

Nancy Eastham

Admin Asst to Sr. Pastor Scott Dudley

Bellevue Presbyterian Church

11/3/2016

I am so excited to hear about your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue. I have done volunteer work with CFH and appreciate their support of the homeless in our area. Thanks for being a council that realizes that homelessness is something our city need address.

One thing I would suggest is that we do look into getting ID's for the men who use the shelter so we can monitor better who we serve and track better their use of the shelter and whether it has impacted their growth toward self sufficiency over time. They will need an ID to get a job so helping them gain that would be a real help to them. I know a homeless VET in Seattle that had his ID stolen including SS number when he was assaulted several times in Seattle. Perhaps the shelter if they pay for the ID replacement, could keep the ID on file until the homeless man has housing or a job so that it will prevent them from losing it.

Thanks for doing this for this sector of our populace who need a voice.

Bre Goss

11/3/2016

My husband and I want to send a letter of gratitude for your work with the residents in Bellevue related to the homeless shelter planning to be built near Bellevue College. My husband and I are Catholic and I work in the area of the proposed shelter and I can't tell you how wonderful it is to hear this is happening. I have absolutely no concerns about additional crime beyond what I already might see. I have complete faith in the services of both the individuals running the shelters and our local police of the city that they will do their best to help these individuals get back on their feet and avoid crime.

Our homelessness issue is disgraceful. We both work with various organizations to find ways to help and make it better. So many area charities provide so many services that work hard to ensure that many people don't make it to homelessness, and others work on moving people out of homelessness. I can tell you they are using every dollar they receive right now to try to combat this problem that continues to grow.

I can relate to many individuals that struggling financially on a personal level. There were times in my life where my family had the willing donors and help of services provided by these very organizations so that we could keep our home and have food on the table each day. If we don't provide for individual's basic needs, we are failing as a community, as a society. And we both feel very responsible in that effort to improve this for everyone. I am now a CPA, a graduate of Gonzaga University with a Master of Accountancy. I could contribute this success to myself, but I can tell you that many people played a role. This shelter could play that role for a person such as myself.

My husband has also worked in the area of mental health, and he can tell you that we need more social service sites to help individuals before they end up at our limited resource hospitals such as Harborview. The more we can provide to individuals in need, the safer our communities are.

Thank you for your diligence in this. Thank you for working on such a hard topic. Please let my husband and I know if we can ever be a voice to those who doubt.

Teresa and Adam Stopka

11/3/2016

I am resending this in case my earlier email do not go through. My husband Alan and I have been helping with meals for the homeless at Bellevue Presbyterian Church for about 5 years and are thrilled that there might be a more permanent place for them and one that could more fully take care of their needs. Please do everything in your power to move this along. The need is great and we are thankful for people like yourselves who care.

Nancy Strand

11/3/2016

I support your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue and love the work CFH is doing to help men move out of homelessness.

The permanent building will provide shelter, day center, supportive housing, and services all in one location. The shelter and day center are not new to the community, but will provide a permanent space where more supportive services will

be offered. There will be new subsidized housing offered, which will enable those experiencing homelessness more housing options to leave homelessness.

My son and I volunteer at the men's shelter and often these are men that want to change but are limited on options. This shelter would help provide the guidance they need to make a positive change in their lives.

Christie Allemand

11/3/2016

Hi Sir: Just wanted to say well done on your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue and love the work CFH is doing to help men move out of homelessness. I have been volunteer with CFH for the past year and have seen what a life saving difference that services can make in people's lives. Thank you.

David Lee

11/3/2016

We support your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue. We have worked with CFH to help their residents with employment services and love the work CFH is doing to move men out of homelessness. Thank you for being a farsighted council.

Thank you!

Sherry Falk

TRAC Associates

11/3/2016

Bellevue Council -

As a 30 year Bellevue Citizen resident I ask you, plead with you, to not build the Eastgate Shelter. As my representative you must enforce the existing laws and remove the vagrants now.

No Shelter!

Peter

11/3/2016

I'm horrified that you want to put a low-barrier shelter in the middle of a residential neighborhood. Even worse, have you any idea how many women walk alone at off hours around BCC and the Park and Ride? This is a disaster waiting to happen.

Wrong concept, and certainly wrong neighborhood. Why would you invite people on drugs, sex offenders, and those with mental illnesses into our backyard? It shouldn't be in Bellevue in the first place, but if you want to make us another Seattle, why not put it in an industrial area...or next to city hall?

Jennifer Harrington

Bellevue, WA

11/3/2016

As a pastor, as a resident, and as a person who cares about "the least of these," thank you for your support of a permanent shelter in Bellevue for men experiencing homelessness. As the Eastside continues to grow, we need to be sure that we are caring for our vulnerable populations. Congregations for the Homeless is a dedicated organization and I have been honored to know the ways they are at work in our community.

Thank you for the vision and the care, to support a permanent location to support men experiencing homelessness in Bellevue.

Rev. Lisa Horst Clark

Acting Lead Pastor

First Congregational Church, Bellevue

11/3/2016

To: Bellevue City council members

I support your decision to create a permanent shelter in Bellevue and love the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Housing is essential to help break the cycle of poverty.

Rev. Cristina Airaghi

Pastor for Children and Youth, First Congregational Church, Bellevue

11/3/2016

We need a permanent shelter in Bellevue. Shelters do more than keep people out of the cold - they provide a place of refuge, of support, and of hope for people who have been marginalized. In addition, the work of Congregations for the Homeless is exemplary in helping to move men out of homelessness - we have a unique opportunity in Bellevue to utilize a success-story as we bring hope and healing to men in our city. I encourage you to approve the Eastgate site for this shelter. We need this now.

Mona Chicks

Member of Bellevue Presbyterian Church

11/3/2016

I am writing in support of the proposed permanent homeless shelter in Bellevue, to be run by Congregations for the Homeless. It is important that we provide adequate resources and support for our most vulnerable populations, and the record of CFH speaks for itself in its success at moving people out of homelessness permanently. We need a permanent shelter in Bellevue.

Cindy Rose

Caring Ministries Team, Bel Pres church

11/4/2016

We support your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue and love the work CFH is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks for being a farsighted council.

St. Vincent de Paul works the homeless and poor. We receive 15-20 calls for help and visit with these individuals/families face to face. Our goal is to help get individuals/families back on their feet; avoid homelessness or to help them find shelter. We provide financial assistance for rent, utilities, food/gas.

Thank you for consideration of permanent shelter to serve the homeless on the Eastside.

Dee Roe

Holy Family Kirkland SVDP Vice-President

11/4/2016

I support your efforts to site a permanent shelter for homeless men in the Eastgate area.

I am a member of a Bellevue church that actively participates in Congregations for the Homeless and its work to move men out of homelessness. There is such a great need for this housing. Thanks for being a farsighted council.

Sally Lawrence

11/4/2016

My family has provided meals to the CFH winter shelter for homeless men. They do need a permanent facility and thank you for your support.

Lynda Milasich

11/4/2016

I support your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue and love the work Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) is doing to help men move out of homelessness.

Thanks for being a farsighted council.
Doris (Jody) Wilson

11/4/2016

We support your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue and love the work CFH is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks for being a farsighted council.
Michael Johnson

11/4/2016

Homeless shelter supports drug economy, since then sellers will also start collecting in this area to tempt those recovering, crime will invariably increase and in Bellevue increase dramatically. Here is an example of were a homeless shelter became a drug exchange center.

<https://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20161101/greenpoint/homeless-shelter-shooting-wounded-heroin-overdose>

And another,

<http://nypost.com/2016/04/15/man-found-dead-in-notorious-homeless-shelter/>

Why do you think Bellevue will be different? Why do you think it's OK to bring all these crime and drug problems to this location? How will this location deal with the inevitable increase in drug and other crimes?

I don't have a strong view on this, but I believe that transportation should not be the highest priority in picking a site for a shelter, as there will invariably be a center for chronic criminals.

The highest priority of the location is public safety, and the decision does not demonstrate how it is safe to put this next to a college, and close from a huge residential areas. And not close to any police stations.

It's a tough challenge but I don't see how this location meets the highest priority that it's supposed to, that is, of ensuring public safety. I am convinced that Bellevue will not invest long-term into this problem and it will be only a matter of time before another recession hits, patrols will be cut down, and Bellevues residents will suffer.

(Addition): Just did a bit more research and the closest police station is:

Factoria Community Police Station

3915 Factoria Blvd. SE

Bellevue, WA 98006

Phone: [425-452-2880](tel:425-452-2880)

Contact: Officer Tory Mangione

Phone: [425-452-2880](tel:425-452-2880)

Our location is near Nordstrom Rack and Red Robin.

Does the Bellevue City Council really think that this Community Police Station will be able to deal with the drug dealers, and the criminals in that location collecting due to the congregation of tempted customers at that location? I highly doubt it. Again, want to ask the question, if we have evidence that homeless shelters increase crime, why is transportation considered to be more important than public safety? It doesn't make any sense, and this problem will never be solved because it will always be the "shelter's fault;" and "we knew what we were getting into."

No information shows anything about historical information of how crime increases, no additional police activities are shown or promised anywhere, and the closest police station (except for WA Patrol who does not have jurisdiction here) capable of dealing with the problem is 30 minutes away in either direction. I think I know why it doesn't because if it did, we'd see the real challenge behind this proposal. This isn't a plan for success, and I'm not convinced it has the Bellevue Resident's best interest in mind because the problem isn't fully understood.

(Addition):

<http://pinellascounty.wtsp.com/news/news/70048-homeless-shelter-neighbors-frustrated-sheriff>

You can also see from this statistical study that crime increased significantly for shelters with over 53 residents.

<http://www.highlinetimes.com/sites/robinsonpapers.com/files/SupportiveHousingStudy.pdf>

The more I learn about it, the more I am surprised how inadequately this project was planned and how wrong the priorities set out at the beginning were. Please stop it before it's too late.

Andrew F

11/4/2016

As the mother of a mentally ill, adult son who has struggled with homelessness on the Eastside, I have great praise for Congregations for the Homeless, and fully support your decision to create a permanent shelter in the Eastgate area (or any other appropriate location.)

Based on my personal contact with them, as well as following their reports to the Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council (EISCC), CFH does excellent work and are meeting a critically important need in our community.

Thank you for recognizing their competency and compassion in dealing with some of our most vulnerable citizens. It speaks well regarding the wisdom and foresight of the Bellevue City Council.

Yours truly,

Suzanne Grogan, MA, MSW (retired)

11/4/2016

As a member of Bel Pres and serving food to the Congregation for the homeless I am more than happy to approve this move. Pro-active programs keeps the problems manageable.

Beverly Washburn

Member of Bel-Pres

11/4/2016

I support your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue and love the work CFH is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks for being a farsighted council.

Kendra Petkau

11/4/2016

I am writing today to thank you and the Bellevue City council for your commitment to homelessness on the eastside. I am fully in support of the CFH men's shelter being placed on county property next to the Eastgate Park and Ride. I greatly appreciate your commitment to all people in Bellevue including those without homes. The site seems ideal due to the factors your committee has laid out, especially the access to public transportation and support services. Thank you so much! I believe that all the people of Bellevue will be much better served if we care for and provide what is necessary for all people to be successfully housed.

Kimberly Delcuore

4550 146th Ave SE Bellevue WA 98006

Somerset Woods Neighborhood

11/4/2016

Yes, I think a permanent place for the homeless is a great idea! Let's go forward e this project.

Sandy Klein

11/4/2016

My grandson works 2 jobs for minimum wage and would be homeless except for help from his family. I have cooked meals for the temporary men's shelter and strongly support a permanent more normal housing alternative.

Please vote for this. And don't forget about homeless women and families.

Jeanne Luchtel

11/4/2016

I support your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue and love the work CFH is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks for being a farsighted council.

Rob Polasek, Bellevue resident

11/4/2016

We support your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue and love the work CFH is doing to help men move out of homelessness. I have been a part of a volunteer neighborhood group to provide meals during their winter shelter and am always amazed at the work they do to help the community. Their responsible approach of helping all those in need and working with them to get into housing and find work to get off the streets is difficult. They provide immediate help while working on a long term solution. Thanks for being a farsighted council.

Kuljit Singh

11/4/2016

As a long-time member of the Bellevue community and a supporter of the Emergency Winter Shelters on the Eastside, I want to voice my support for the project currently under consideration to provide a permanent building to offer shelter, day center, supportive housing, and services to men in our community who are experiencing homelessness.

I hope that the council will vote to prioritize and commit to providing these valuable services to our neighbors when they need it most.

Dixie

(active meal-prep volunteer for Congregations for the Homeless, Sophia Way, and FareStart)

11/4/2016

I support your decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in Bellevue. I have volunteered with Congregations for the Homeless in the past and am so impressed with the work that they do. Thank you for helping to address the very complex problem of homelessness in our community.

Linda Reichenbach

11/4/2016

I am a member of ESUC. We are one of the CFH churches and I have been fortunate to volunteer and spend time with these men several times.

I support your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue.

I hope the work CFH is doing to help men move out of homelessness can be an inspiration for this project.

Thank you for your work on this.

Eric Horner

11/4/2016

Thank you for your work on a permanent site for a men's shelter in Bellevue. I believe the homeless situation is one of the major challenges of our region and "Congregations For The Homeless" does wonderful work and I'm very supportive.

It's important work and very appreciated!

Pete McKinstry

Bellevue Resident

11/4/2016

I support the permanent shelter at Eastgate

Bev Parsons

11/4/2016

I certainly believe a homeless shelter is ESSENTIAL . I volunteer for St. Vincent de Paul at Sacred Heart Church in Bellevue so I understand that our homeless brethren need shelter

Sally Sue Coleman

11/4/2016

Thank you for supporting the homeless by agreeing to a permanent shelter in Bellevue. We also appreciate the work that Congregations for the Homeless does in transitioning men out of homelessness.

Homelessness is a big problem and we are happy to see city councils being proactive.

Mark and Susan Vossler

11/4/2016

I support your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue and love the work CFH is doing to help men move out of homelessness. My church (Northlake Unitarian Universalist, Kirkland) has supported CFH many times in the past. This is a good organization and the homeless need all help we can give them.

Thanks for being a farsighted council.

Minnette Lesser

11/4/2016

I was informed that there will soon be a decision made regarding the site and permits for a permanent shelter run by Congregations for the Homeless. My husband and I, along with a small group of friends have "adopted" a group home of 5 men through CFH. The house is actually across the freeway from where the permanent shelter might be. It has been a gift getting to know these men. Though they are well on their way to being independent and on their own, they still have significant struggles and challenges to overcome (health, work, finding housing, etc). They are fantastic men and they have gotten back on their feet thanks to CFH. I'm incredibly impressed with each staff member I've met from CFH: David, Josh, Sarah, Dwight and Tom. They are amazing people, working hard for this vulnerable and struggling part of society.

I would highly encourage you to approve this site and permits for this organization. It's well run, it has impressive statistics to show how successful they are at helping men struggling with homelessness, and it will be a benefit to the City of Bellevue to have this permanent building for this organization. I'll be first in line to serve dinner on opening night!

Rachael Mitchell

11/4/2016

If as a consequence of the low barrier men's shelter (to include drug addicts and sex offenders) actually being established in the residential Eastgate neighborhood, there occurs a rape, a child molestation or a house invasion that can be directly attributed to the men from this shelter, have the mayor or the city council members considered that legal action might be taken against them as they had prior documented knowledge that crimes of various natures would increase in the neighborhood? The proximity of Bellevue College, a number of day care centers and schools and a densely populated single family neighborhood magnify these possibilities considerably.

You must be aware that the Bellevue city government and the CFH group will be the first to be cited after having admitted the risk potentials. Would it not be best for all vulnerable parties to consider a location with not so many life alternating and traumatic variables?

Mary Banbury

11/4/2016

I want to express my support for building a permanent shelter for people experiencing homelessness in Bellevue, to be run by Congregations for the Homeless (CFH). I have supported CFH since 2002, both with my money and my time. I

have seen, up close, how effectively and respectfully the organization works with the men they serve, and with the church partners they have developed over the years. Leveraging their resources, CFH has partnered with community groups to help men find short-term shelter and long-term housing and employment. Many people on the Eastside are involved in helping to solve homelessness thanks to the passionate work of Steve Roberts, David Bowling, and the rest of CFH's excellent staff. I look forward to seeing the permanent shelter become a reality on the Eastside!

Claudia Ballheim

11/5/2016

I wish to express my support for your decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in Bellevue and I am very supportive of the work that Congregations For the Homeless (CFH) is doing to help men transition out of homelessness. I have volunteered with CFH for five years and I believe that they are a very fine organization and of great assistance to the men who have found themselves with no place to live. My church, St. Madeleine Sophie in Bellevue, plays a role in providing the men with warm meals, shelter, clothing and other things. We see ourselves as helping the guys at CFH and that they are no different than we are except for having difficulties that resulted in homelessness.

Thank you for helping these men,
Steve Goldsmith

11/5/2016

I am writing to voice my support for a permanent Eastside homeless shelter for men and I understand you will soon be making a decision about the site for such a facility. I would support the proposed Eastgate site. I was not at the October 27 meeting but I have read about the concerns of those living somewhat close to the site. I hope it was pointed out to all that this would also be a Day Center and that many of the men would be taking advantage of that. Also some of the men have jobs and cars and would not be in the shelter all of the time. In the late 1980's and early 1990's, I served on a task force set up by The Eastside Social Concerns Council to look into the concern of homeless on the Eastside. At that time many thought there were no homeless people in this area; of course that was not true. We found there was some shelter and help for women and children and teens, but nothing for homeless men. In talking with some of the men, we found many were unable to get to Seattle each evening and they also did not feel safe in those shelters. There was no funding for a shelter at the time, and therefore, Congregations for the Homeless was started using church/synagogue facilities for a rotating shelter. Under the leadership of Nadine Shannon and Steve Roberts, CFH grew and has been very successful in helping men go from homelessness to a stable living condition. Some of the men over the years have had jobs but needed the shelter so they could save enough money to pay first and last month's rent, security deposit etc. ---CFH was able to offer them that opportunity. Thousands of people have been volunteers for this program over the years and I feel many will continue to enthusiastically support a permanent shelter with their dollars, food, and time. As far as I know there have been no problems over the years in the neighborhoods of CFH's host congregations due to the men staying in the Shelter. I am a member of Newport Presbyterian Church ---we were a host congregation for eleven years and we had no problems with the men. I realize that these men were carefully screened. Yes, we do need to provide shelter and services for those with past criminal records, mental health issues and drug and alcohol addiction who are homeless, but I'm sure that can be thought about and worked out satisfactorily in a "low barrier" shelter as has been proposed.

I wish to thank King County and the Eastside cities who have supported CFH and the Bellevue City Council for their efforts to go forward with a permanent shelter.

Betty Spohn, Bellevue Washington

11/5/2016

As a resident in the Eastgate area, I support your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue. CFH is doing valuable work in the community to help men move out of homelessness.

Thanks for being willing to take a farsighted stand on homelessness.

Judy Faast

11/5/2016

I strongly urge the Bellevue City Council approve construction of permanent men's shelter in Eastgate near Bellevue College.

Richard and Darlean Hanner

11/5/2016

The Executive Board of the Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council (EISCC) supports your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue and we appreciate the work CFH is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks for being a farsighted council. We hope you will continue to work toward elimination the underlying causes of homelessness which are addressable at your level. Then the buildup of homeless men, women, and children will have been vastly decreased within the city.

Tony Copes, President

Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council (EISCC)

11/5/2016

As a long-time resident of Bellevue, I can attest that nothing is so certain as change. The small town I moved to years ago is now a city. Unfortunately, some of the development has come at great cost to our residential neighborhoods. The "feel" of our smaller and tight-knit community has been altered and I recognize the need to nurture and preserve our neighborhoods. Nonetheless, the homeless population of our city and others needs to be acknowledged and addressed. I have read numerous comments by neighbors to the proposed Eastgate site for a new homeless men's shelter. I understand their concerns. **But I support the shelter at the Eastgate location** due to it's proximity to transportation, social services and healthcare. Also because of Congregations for the Homeless history in successfully ministering service in this area for years in close proximity to neighborhoods.

Wendy Jones

11/6/2016

I am a Bellevue resident and am thrilled to hear of your decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in Bellevue and appreciate the work CFH is doing to help men move out of homelessness. My family volunteers at the winter shelters and our church, Westminster Chapel, is one of the locations in the monthly rotation. But a permanent shelter is such a tangible step improving these men's' lives.

Kris Mason

11/6/2016

The CFH is doing great work to help men, including Veterans and trade laborers, transition from their current challenges and move out of homelessness.

I support your decision to approve a permanent shelter in Bellevue if there is a low barrier/emergency component. We need to address the bottom of the spectrum as much as the top.

C

11/6/2016

I'm writing in **support** of the proposed permanent shelter for homeless men in the Eastgate neighborhood of Bellevue. The Eastside needs a permanent shelter. Its great Bellevue is willing to step up and do their part for the

Eastside. Bellevue has a responsibility to help alleviate the homeless situation. No location will be perfect, but I think this location in a business district with good proximity to public transportation is a good choice.

I have volunteered at the CFH Eastside Winter Shelter for the last year and have never felt threatened in any way. I've seen community groups come in to serve a meal and they are all treated with respect. The men are generally very gentle and polite, and I think the community's concerns about crime are overblown. I would suggest they come and serve a meal and see these men for themselves.

These men are our neighbors. They deserve to be treated with dignity.

Robert Long

11/6/2016

Thank you for your plan to open a permanent men's shelter and supportive housing on Eastgate Way. My family lives in the Spiritridge neighborhood of Bellevue and my children attend Spiritridge Elementary. While some in my neighborhood may express concerns about the site of the shelter, I strongly feel that pretending these men aren't our neighbors or hoping they will go away is an unacceptable response to a challenging situation. I appreciate your concern for people in our community experiencing homelessness. Thank you for your thoughtfulness as you considered access to services and transportation. Please continue to prioritize services for the vulnerable among us.

Mary Yuhas and Family

11/6/2016

My name is Tyler Nelson and I am an occasional volunteer with the nonprofit organization, Congregations for the Homeless. I just wanted to let you know that I support the project that the Bellevue City Council is working on so that homeless people can be provided with a shelter especially in the next few months where the weather gets colder. Those people need a place like that and are desperate and have been displaced. For so many of those people, they have no hope or a safe place to stay. As I was driving to work in Seattle one day, I saw someone cross an overpass (very dangerous) to get somewhere (This was by where I-90 meets I-5 and just east of Safeco Field which is close to where I-90 ends. I also see people on the overpass at NE 8th Street with signs that say displaced veteran or single parent needing money and have x number of kids. Anything helps! I hope that this new shelter will provide those types of people with the resources that they need to survive the cold winters now and in the future.

Tyler Nelson

11/6/2016

I am writing to say that I am in support of Bellevue allowing a permanent shelter for homeless men in our community. It is evident that there is a problem around Bellevue with homeless individuals and we can't just ignore it.

I have volunteered at Westminster Chapel in support of Congregations for the Homeless when our congregation has hosted this group each year in April. As I have had the opportunity to sit and talk with men who are being served by this program I have often been struck by their stories of job loss, injury and other issues that have led to them being homeless. One man in particular has stayed in my memory as he was a formerly employed tech worker who had been laid off and had run out of resources. I am so glad that the Bellevue Council has the courage to address the need for shelter and resources for people in our community.

Julia Pratt

11/6/2016

I am writing to voice my support for your decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in Bellevue. I live near the Eastgate area and I believe that the community would be better off with a permanent place for the homeless, since we see so many in our area. Our local police would most likely be able to keep an eye on them as well.

Elizabeth Lisso

11/6/2016

My name is Stephen O'Bent and I grew up in Bellevue. I wanted to express my unqualified support and enthusiasm for Congregation for the Homeless' plan for a permanent shelter in Eastgate. I've have the pleasure of volunteering with CFH in the past and I know that they are doing tremendous work in improving the lives of countless men on the Eastside. I urge you to vote in support of the creation of the proposed new shelter, which will allow CFH to pursue their mission to a greater degree, helping our most vulnerable citizens to find shelter and opportunity.
Stephen

11/6/2016

We ask that you take into consideration the number of preschools, day care centers, family homes, elderly residents, condos, Bellevue College, schools, etc. before approving the building of the shelter in the Eastgate area by the park and ride.

We realize the necessity of having a shelter for the homeless, however, having addicts, drug and alcohol affected folks, and sex offenders will only add to crime in the area. This area is close enough to the Factoria mall and the Eastgate shopping area that they can easily walk there too. This can make it unsafe for shoppers at these locations, especially the more vulnerable such as the elderly. We know from experience that those with drug dependency will do whatever it takes in order to get their next fix of drugs. Because this shelter will not require they get help, it will allow them to roam around whenever they want, etc. this will be unsafe for the people in the area.

Many of the students walk to and from school. Many of the elderly do daily walks in the area. Having a low barrier shelter in this area is dangerous to all types of residents.

There has to be a better solution to assist the homeless in a place to live.

Linda and Ira Scherrer

11/6/2016

Congratulations to the city of Bellevue for taking significant action toward reducing the dilemma of homelessness in our city. I've visited the identified site and think it is great .. situated where many services are within walking distance. Thank you for your forward thinking and for your commitment of dollars as well as people hours to make this happen.

Lucy Brand

Board member, Congregations for the Homeless

11/6/2016

I am writing in support of the proposed permanent homeless shelter in Bellevue, to be run by Congregations for the Homeless. It is important that we provide adequate resources and support for our most vulnerable populations, and the record of CFH speaks for itself in its success at moving people out of homelessness permanently. We need a permanent shelter in Bellevue.

Debbie Buck

Bellevue resident

11/6/2016

We ask that you take into consideration the number of preschools, day care centers, family homes, elderly residents, condos, Bellevue College, schools, etc. before approving the building of the shelter in the Eastgate area by the park and ride.

We realize the necessity of having a shelter for the homeless, however, having addicts, drug and alcohol affected folks, and sex offenders will only add to crime in the area. This area is close enough to the Factoria mall and the Eastgate shopping area that they can easily walk there too. This can make it unsafe for shoppers at these locations, especially the more vulnerable such as the elderly. We know from experience that those with drug dependency will do whatever

it takes in order to get their next fix of drugs. Because this shelter will not require they get help, it will allow them to roam around whenever they want, etc. this will be unsafe for the people in the area.

Many of the students walk to and from school. Many of the elderly do daily walks in the area. Having a low barrier shelter in this area is dangerous to all types of residents.

There has to be a better solution to assist the homeless in a place to live.

Linda and Ira Scherrer

11/6/2016

I am writing to formerly express my concern and objection to the proposed homeless shelter at 14350 Southeast Eastgate Way, Bellevue, WA 98007.

This area is immediately next to the following:

- Bellevue City College 0.1 miles
- Dizzy's Tumblebus daycare 0.6 miles

- Silver Cloud Hotel 0.4 miles
- Hyatt House Hotel 0.4 miles
- Eastgate Park & Ride 0.1 mile
- Extensive single family homes south of location 1.0 miles
- Several apartments, condos, and townhomes within 1.0 mile
- Eastgate elementary 1.5 miles
- Tye Middle School 1.7 miles

The placement of a homeless shelter in this area would be a mistake and potentially endanger the local community with increased crime that could be avoided by finding another location. There is an extremely high population of elementary students, families with children, hotels, where traveling families stop for a night, large populations of student / business commuters at the P&R, and college students being on campus at all hours.

Therefore, I am asking that the city re-evaluate this project and either find an alternative location or not move forward with the Eastgate homeless shelter development. When a decision has been made, I request the city inform me as it will impact my decision to continue living in this community.

Kyle Luna

11/6/2016

Council member Vandana Slatter wrote an impressive article on "Bellevue's nimble vision" in the Fall/winter 2016 issue of the Bellevue It's Your City newsletter.

We quote: "the City Council and city government are committed to a vibrant, forward-looking vision. With this commitment, we have the capacity and willingness to respond nimbly and with innovative ideas. It is also clear that a continued spirit of cooperation with our community and regional partners will be vital as we move into the future. Ultimately, the key to success is recognizing that the best ideas rise by being deeply aware and engaged with our community".

We applaud the City Council for this vision and hope that it is implemented in the "spirit of cooperation with our community" and "being deeply aware and engaged with our community."

A case in point is the recently proposed permanent Homeless shelter at the Eastgate Public Health site.

First of all, we feel compassion for those among the homeless who are responsible citizens of the community and we are all for a solution to the issue, but the low barrier shelter proposed does not come across as a viable and safe solution in view of the proposed location being in close proximity to a single family neighborhood and it being a low barrier shelter without any entrance screening requirements or adequate supervision.

The 28 page presentation prepared for the Oct 27 workshop on the homeless shelter proposal clearly stated:
Two of the goals are:

**“Safe shelter—help clients survive and is safe for surrounding area
Good neighbor to immediate neighborhood and broader community”**

and One of the factors in selecting a suitable site is:

“No existing residential adjacent, and outside single family neighborhoods”

However, the City Council states in the same presentation that the Public Health site has the nearest residential up the slope, 800 feet away.

In addition, it is a single family and multifamily neighborhood, with a park and ride facility used by the community including school kids, 2 hotels, Bellevue College with thousands of female commuters, a Bank of America branch and numerous small businesses nearby.

Clearly the public health site does **NOT** meet the criteria stated by the City Council.

The new proposed facility can better serve these homeless men and the community in a different Bellevue location.

We advocate for the Right Site, Right Size, and Right Rules.

Given the various site options offered by the City Council, the only suitable site options would be: the PSE substation that is removed from residential proximity.

Or the Eastgate Way—KC Solid Waste transfer





Please address the community concerns as summarized in the City Council presentation of Oct 27, re-examine various shelter location options, follow public process and open public hearings before any decision is made, and re-evaluate the costs and benefits of a 100 person low-barrier shelter and the way it will be managed and supervised.

We look forward to your early response. Thank you very much.

Kin Chi Yan and Sui Yan Tan

Resident of Bellevue for 20 years and a regular user of the Eastgate Park and Ride facility

11/7/2016

I am submitting a document which sums up citizen views regarding the **Proposed Men's Homeless Shelter** to be located in Eastgate next to the Eastgate P&R. I hope you will give consideration to the views put forth in the document.

The document contains a map, which shows the immediately area affected by this proposal including the locations of schools, preschools, daycare centers, townhomes and businesses. Since the map is small as an embedded file, I have also attached it as a separate file for better viewing. Legend contained in document.

Let me know if there is anything else I can do to facilitate the process around the proposed shelter.

Thank you, -Birgit Hansen

Homeowner at Harmony Townhomes

(Addition - document attached on following pages)

November 7, 2016

To Bellevue City Council,

- John Stokes, Mayor
- John Chelminiak, Deputy Mayor
- Conrad Lee
- Jennifer Robertson
- Lynne Robinson
- Vandana Slatter
- Kevin Wallace

I am writing to you in regards to the **Proposed Homeless Shelter** intended to be built on the property owned by King County located at 14350 SE Eastgate Way Bellevue, WA.

I am a resident of *Harmony*, which is one of the townhome complexes within the immediate vicinity of the proposed said shelter. Together with another homeowner from an adjacent townhome complex, *Sunset Ridge*, we started a signature collection, "[Residents Against Eastside Men's Shelter](#)". We have collected 2000+ signatures (and counting) among residents and businesses within a 1.5-mile radius of the proposed shelter. We object to the shelter for the following reasons:

The wrong site

The proposed low-barrier homeless shelter is located at the wrong site. There are hundreds of single family homes, many as part of 3 nearby townhome complexes, within a 1-mile radius and at least 30 daycare centers, preschools and schools, plus, of course, Bellevue College with 30,000+ students many as young as 15-16 years of age and numerous evening classes. Security is a big concern for all these groups of people. (See embedded and attached map, which lists these stakeholders and their locations.)

Homeowners contribute hundreds of thousands of dollars in property taxes every year in addition to paying income taxes. They also contribute to the flourishing economy of the Eastside by their employment in technology, aerospace and a variety of businesses and put money back into the community through their consumption. These people have a legitimate right to worry about the falling property values of their homes due to having a nearby homeless shelter. Studies consistently show that homeless shelters are among the top 4 reasons that home-prices fall, the others being prisons, strip clubs and many "For Rent" signs.

The area immediately north and west of the proposed low-barrier homeless shelter is heavily wooded never-before-developed nature areas, which already at this point has attracted homeless encampments. Nearby homeowners, who are surrounded by these nature areas, fear that these wooded bushy areas will lend themselves to "shady dealing" among the homeless clientele plus attract encampments of homeless who are unwilling to use shelters.

The wrong size

A mega low-barrier homeless shelter for men has no precedence in King County. What happens when so many homeless men congregate every night and are let out into our community the next morning?

1

There is already a certain amount of drug dealing in Factoria and car break-ins and stealing of valuable car parts in the Eastgate Park & Ride. Will the shelter and its clientele attract criminal activities and “overflow encampments” by those who either cannot or will not stay in the shelter? Residents have many security concerns shared by students and faculty at Bellevue College. We do not want to be a social experiment for a hitherto unheard of mega homeless shelter.

The wrong rules

By this we mean the “low-barrier come-as-you-are” emergency shelter rules that are intended to govern the new shelter. No ID required, no questions asked. These rules make all of us extremely worried. We worry that crime, alcoholism, drug dealing, violence, loitering, car prowls and theft will follow in the trail of this homeless men’s shelter as has been observed around numerous other shelters.

What the surrounding community wants

Our impression is that we as residents have been presented with an insufficient process thus far by the City of Bellevue. We are grateful for the “Public Community Outreach Process” we have experienced, but we want the “full-meal deal”, namely a “Public Process” that includes a series of “Public Hearings” and a “Citizens Advisory Committee” where we as residents are to be represented. Something as big, new and costly as a 100-bed low-barrier men’s homeless shelter plus adjacent supportive housing is not a project that should be hurried through an administrative approval process by the City of Bellevue.

We have full confidence in the democratic processes of the City of Bellevue and have great respect for the hard-working men and women on the City Council. All of us understand the need for creating a permanent shelter for homeless men and we feel empathy for these vulnerable individuals. We believe that by working closely with City of Bellevue, we can find a way through this challenging decision process so we all come out as winners, both the city, the residents and the homeless.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Respectfully submitted on November 7, 2016

-Birgit Hansen

Harmony Townhomes

2680 139th Avenue SE, unit 20

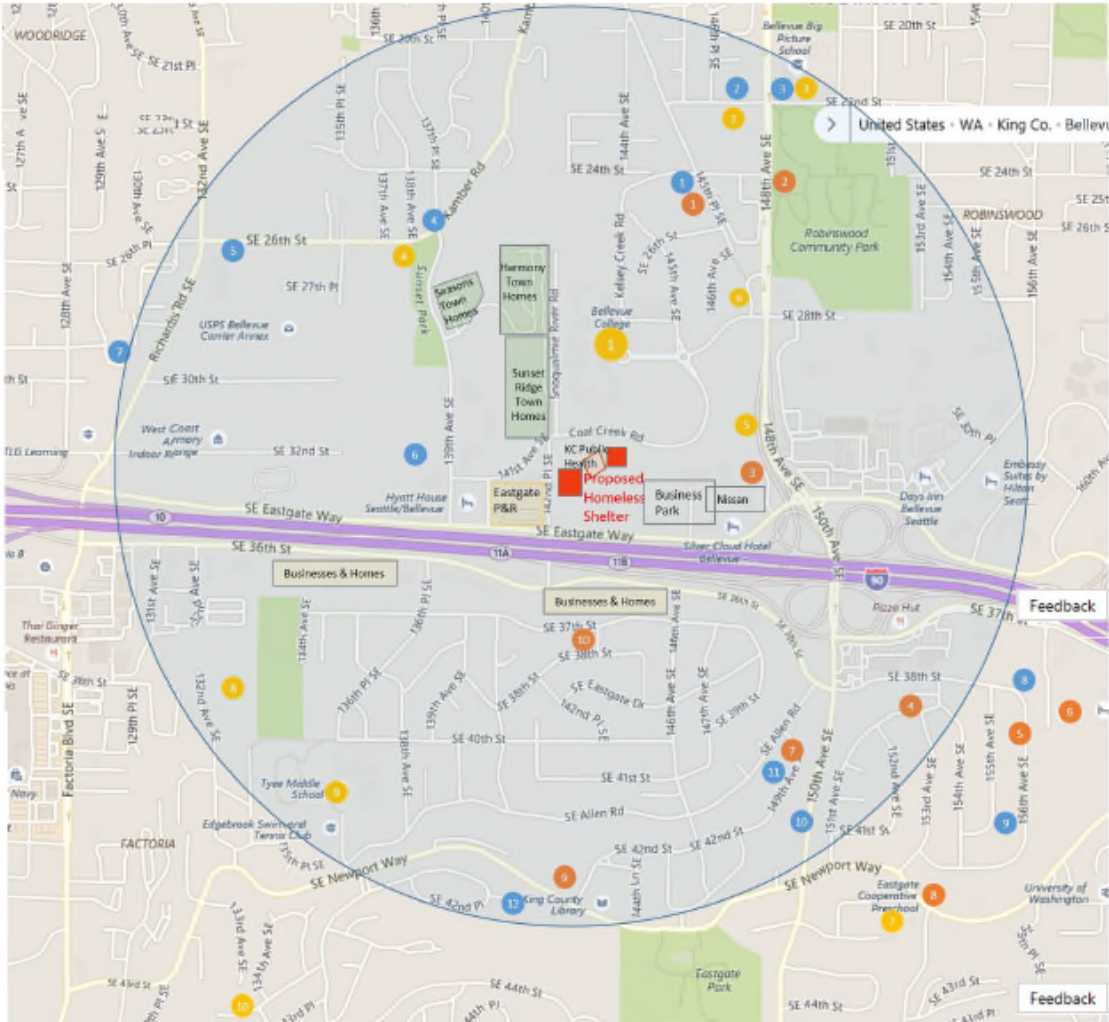
Bellevue, WA 98005

Email: bhansen.3@hotmail.com

Phone: 425-829-1793

Area Map of Bellevue with Eastgate area in Center.

The circle describes a 1-mile radius with the proposed Homeless Shelter as its center.



Legend:

Schools yellow dots

- 1. Bellevue College
- 2. Eastside Christian School (Grades: K-12)
- 3. Bellevue Big Picture School (Grades: 6-12)
- 4. Chestnut Hill Academy (Grades: K-5)

5. Sears Driving School (many teenagers)
6. Champions Center Religious School
7. Eastgate Elementary School (Grades: K-5)
8. Puesta Del Sol Elementary School (Grades: K-5)
9. Tye Middle School (Grades: 6-8)
10. Learning Specialists (Tutoring)

Preschools/Early Learning orange dots

1. Bellevue College Early Learning Center
2. Kid Magic Preschool/Kindercare
3. Dizzy's Tumblebus (Kids' Gym)
4. Annie Alphabet Preschool
5. Jennifer Rosen Mead Preschool
6. Temple De Hirsch Sinai Preschool
7. International Montessori Academy
8. Eastgate Cooperative Preschool
9. Aldersgate Christian Preschool
10. Tom & DeeAnn Perea's Preschool

Daycare/Childcare blue dots

1. Bellevue College Childcare Program
2. Kaizen Child Care
3. Robinswood Childcare Center
4. Celeste Watcher Home Daycare
5. Bright Horizons at Camber Road
6. Bright Horizons at Sunset
7. Joan Dubois Daycare
8. Happy Face Day Care
9. Pauline Emerson Home Daycare
10. Cho Eunae Home Daycare
11. Hwang Eun Jung Home Daycare
12. Pourmassina Shahla Home Daycare

Also marked

King County Public Health, Eastgate P&R, nearby townhome complexes (*Sunset Ridge, Harmony, Seasons*), businesses, offices and single family homes.

11/7/2016

I am writing in support of the proposed permanent homeless shelter in Bellevue, to be run by Congregations for the Homeless. It is important that we provide adequate resources and support for our most vulnerable populations, and the record of CFH speaks for itself in its success at moving people out of homelessness permanently. We need a permanent shelter in Bellevue.

Tom Ylvisaker

11/7/2016

I am a Bellevue resident, and I live within a mile or two of the proposed men's shelter. I am also a member of Bellevue First Congregational Church, which has a long association with CFH. We were a founding congregation, and have hosted men in the CFH program for 23 years. I coordinate the program for the church, and the men are in our facility in November.

We at the church would like nothing better than for any city council members that are interested to join us and the men for dinner this month! The men arrive at 7:00 every evening, and dinner is served between 7:15 and 7:30. Please come, serve dinner and then join the men.

I applaud the city partnering with CFH and King County to create a permanent shelter for this vulnerable part of our community. The proximity to services and transit is crucial for these men, and they deserve the dignity of a roof, showers, meals, and laundry! Without these most basic needs being met, there is no way they can move out of the life on the streets.

Thank you for your advocacy for these men.

Karin Evensta

11/7/2016

I want to let you know that I support your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue and love the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness.

Our family has had the opportunity to serve these men meals when they have been sheltered at our church at First Presbyterian of Bellevue and we look forward to doing this again next month.

Thanks for being a farsighted council and for giving support to a marginalized population of our community.

Kristen Chesmore

11/7/2016

I'd like to voice my support for the planned Bellevue permanent low-barrier homeless shelter. Addressing homelessness must be an important goal for all of us as individuals, as a society, and as a city. Ignoring the plight of our fellow humans is not an option.

I appreciate the concerns of the neighbors of the current proposed location but there are going to be concerns with any location. I was at the September 29th community meeting and it seems the concerns can be well addressed, though admittedly never 100%.

I have done volunteer work at the Emergency Winter Shelter about 50 times over the last two seasons and a variety of related activities, so I know many of the homeless men in Bellevue quite well. They have their challenges, certainly, but are good people. I have never felt significantly threatened or offended. They are almost always sensitive to and appreciative of the efforts of everyone around them.

The temporary shelters have been a good step in the right direction but are clearly limited due to their temporary nature. Relocating the winter shelter when needed is highly problematic and expensive. A permanent solution (which I look forward to volunteering at) will address many of the problems with homelessness in Bellevue in a much more substantial manner.

Paul Thomsen

11/7/2016

We support your decision to site a suitable, well planned out permanent shelter in Bellevue and love the work CFH is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks for being a farsighted council.

I have prepared and served food at the temporary site a handful of times, and always found the staff great and the organization well run. I was amazed that there were that many homeless men in the Bellevue, WA area. I lost count out over 80 that streamed in through out the evening. The men were courteous and oh so thankful. This particular effort was run through a neighbor of ours. I believe many of the men would not choose to be homeless, but due to lack of work and economy changing, this was the only choice. As I learned more about CFH, and the tiers to recovery out of homelessness, I was impressed the program was working. The gentlemen that ran the meal program was once on the street himself.

Kristen Dawson

11/7/2016

Please, please make provisions for homeless men in Bellevue. The future will thank you and so will those working with them day in and day out trying to make a difference for these hurting people. Thanks you.

[Holly Bustad](#)

Community Connector

Highland Covenant Church

11/7/2016

I am writing to let you know that I support your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue and love the work CFH is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Our church has been support the work they do for over 20 years.

Rev. Lara Bolger

Pastor | Redmond United Methodist Church

11/7/2016

I am writing this email to show my support for a permanent shelter in Bellevue for men. I have been volunteering at the winter shelter for a couple of years and it is time to have a permanent place. CFH is doing great work on helping men move out of homelessness.

I attended the Luncheon in May of 2016 and I am glad to see the work being done. It takes a city to make changes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Meron Michael

11/7/2016

I attended the community meeting for the temporary men's winter shelter Thursday night and was rather disturbed to hear some of the comments expressed by certain individuals. I just want the council to know that not everybody is afraid of people experiencing homelessness and having a shelter somewhat near their home.

I believe that Congregations for the Homeless, who have been running the emergency winter shelter for men successfully for several years, is a good partner for the city. Their program is well managed and they have been very responsive to neighborhood and community concerns. As far as I know, there have been no major concerns or incidents in all the years of running the shelter and I think that most of the concern and fear expressed is from lack of information. The sad thing is that for some individuals, no amount of facts or logical arguments will help them make a rational decision. I just want the council to know that not all Bellevue residents are against having either temporary or permanent homeless shelters within our city.

Alaric Bien

11/7/2016

I am a resident of Eastgate and I am in full support of the proposed permanent Eastside men's shelter. I am involved in volunteering at two shelters, Sophia's Way, the family shelter at Sacred Heart in Seattle, bringing food to the Tent City 4

community and helping out at Congregations for the Homeless through my parish- St. Madeleine Sophie so I understand a little about the scope of this problem. I know that many people who reside in Eastgate and Bellevue have fears and concerns on the topic of homeless in our neighborhoods but this problem is real and won't be going away just by wishing it away.

I see first hand every week how important secure and safe shelter is to a family or individual who has found themselves homeless. We all need to work together and this proposed shelter in this specific location is a practical and essential response.

Carole Woodard

11/7/2016

I am aware that Congregations for the Homeless is seeking a site in the Eastgate area of Bellevue to build a permanent shelter for homeless men. I know they were looking at several other sites which were rejected because of the proximity of single family homes or condominium homes. This particular site has no housing in the immediate surrounding area. It is also insulated by a significant grade change up to Bellevue College. All of the immediate areas are either occupied by offices or are unused properties. It seems to me that this particular location has the least impact on single families or families living in condominiums because of the distance to them. I think the Council should work cooperatively with CFH and King County to make this site available to CFH.

Gary King

11/7/2016

Dear City of Bellevue Council,

I am a Bellevue resident, I live at 4248 Lake Washington Blvd. SE in Bellevue. Myself and my family all support the placement of the Men's Shelter at the Public Health Site in Eastgate. Thank you for your courage to bring it to Bellevue.

Rand Redlin

11/7/2016

I would like to compliment and support the City Council for creating a permanent homeless shelter in Bellevue.

I have been volunteering with Medical Teams International for over 15 years to treat the dental needs of the homeless men housed by the Congregation For the Homeless. I have treated men from a broad social strata; from recovering addicts to ex stockbrokers. Their dental needs were always real. Everyone of them wanted to overcome the circumstances that made them homeless. I feel like I have made a difference in helping them.

I personally appreciate the City Council for having the sensitivity and foresight to create a working solution for these people.

Dr. Daniel S. Geare

11/7/2016

I want to share my support your decision to site a permanent shelter for homeless men in Bellevue. To address the need with compassion rather than ignore it is the kind of leadership that our community benefits greatly from in the long run. Additionally, being familiar with the good work CFH is doing, I am thrilled to see this partnership.

Josh McQueen



11/7/2016

We are writing to thank you for taking action on the problem of homelessness in Bellevue. As residents of the city and members of Bellevue First Congregational Church we have seen the homeless in the streets and met them face to face through Congregations for the Homeless. Given the skyrocketing cost of real estate and health care, more people will be in dire circumstances in years to come. This is not a problem we can ignore.

We moved here 20 years ago and live about one mile from the Eastgate Park and Ride. The location you are proposing is excellent, in our opinion. Thank you for your work on this important issue! You have our full support.

Sam and Nancy Bent

11/7/2016

Hello, in reviewing the "agreement" Bellevue has made with Kirkland & Redmond regarding addressing homeless needs, I fail to appreciate why the three cities are separating the services so each covers 1 type regionally, rather than each city covering all 3 types of needs, except perhaps because Kirkland & Redmond wanted to wash their hands of the responsibility of developing plans for all 3 .

In effect this regional agreement is RED-LINING. A term used to in effect draw a line on a map as a boundary to keep certain populations either in or out. In addition to limiting services for specific populations in each city, this red-lining will directly impact homeless families who want their children in Bellevue Schools. With this plan, homeless families who want their children in Bellevue Schools will need to choose between having them in Bellevue Schools but no a safe place to sleep at night, or another school district that has shelters for families.

Is Redlining really the message the Bellevue Council wants to send to homeless families and homeless adults?

If Bellevue is addressing the homeless issue, as they should be, REDLINING is NOT the way to do it (this goes for Kirkland & Redmond as well!!!) I recommend Bellevue not go along with this regional plan & instead develop a plan that serves all 3 homeless populations (& encourage our neighbors to do the same!!).

Dena Fantle

11/8/2016

I am contacting you because I have worked as a volunteer for CFH for three years and have the utmost respect and admiration for the staff and the organization as a whole. Their homeless program is very clearly thought out and I have seen men remarkably lifted up from being homeless to working and finding a home. The CFH program is multi step, and throughout the program, they lead each man to success, carefully, step-by-step.

I understand the community not wanting a homeless shelter in the area. We have all read the horror stories of what is happening in Seattle. CFH is working to keep this from happening in Bellevue by housing these men so they don't have to "camp out" and trash our city.

The new, larger, and more stable housing they are hoping to establish in the Eastgate area will have standards to safeguard their neighborhood. They don't allow dangerous, harmful men to be in the facility. They will be careful to keep men from lingering outside in the neighborhood. With the help and support of CFH, these hopeless guys gain help and hope for a useful future. It has been a privilege to see men, with the help of CFH, find work, which they want so badly. It is heartwarming to see. And then, when there is space available, they move into housing provided by CFH, and upwards and onwards.

Maybe you already know that many of these people grew up in the Bellevue area. I sincerely hope our city will go forward with this project. It will be good for both the city, community, and of course, for the men and women to whom they give aid and hope.

Kathy Claudon

Resident in Bellevue area for 45 years.

11/9/2016

Well let's see what Donald Trump has to say about all this ;)

Christopher Carlin

11/9/2016

I am sure that you've heard many comments in the same vein but wanted to pass along my feedback as well. I have never been very involved in the community before and would like to find my voice.

I read about the shelter on Next Door. As someone who works in Seattle, commutes using Eastgate P&R, and lives a bit north in Imperial East, my main concern is on cleanliness and safety in the area. This may largely be tangential to the issue of the shelter itself, as I already have concerns with the P&R. The elevators in the P&R already consistently reek of urine. The parking lots are dark, in the winter with DST, and are not supervised and can feel secluded. Even the buses can be crowded to the extent of refusing to take on passengers at stops during rush hour. While the FAQ states that people will be supervised in the facility and cleanliness maintained, I don't know how far away from the shelter this extends or if additional funding will be directed towards the P&R or if we will add more buses to serve more passengers. I do not want to presume depravity of the homeless by any means or deprive them of the help and resources they need. They need help and resources. At the same time, having grown up in San Francisco, I have been verbally harassed by mentally ill homeless, who yell at anyone who passes by. I just kept walking. That's a lot harder to do if you're waiting for your bus or walking to your car, and there aren't many others around who may help out if the situation escalates. I think a basic precaution is to put the shelter in a place farther from schools, homes, and in a less secluded and more urban area, which to my impression gets more attention and security from police officers -- in other words, near downtown or maybe crossroads. I would generally like to see our downtown become more developed with public resources rather than only the expansion of more retail and condos, alongside things like our beautiful library and city hall.

Natalie

11/9/2016

So I have some questions that I'd like to ask:

* Why does this project require such a huge amount of money? \$23mil? And is this just an initial budget?

- * Other than a homeless shelter, have you considered better ways to spend that \$23mil to help the homeless that will be more beneficial to both the homeless and the community?
 - * Has there been prove that shelters actually decrease homelessness? Or does it actually increase homelessness?
 - * Have you heard that homeless people themselves are afraid of low-barrier shelters and choose not to go in them? If so, who are you really building the shelter for?
 - * What are the hours of the homeless shelter? And where are the homeless transported to once they are release from the shelter?
 - * Where are you going to send the 101st men and thereafter?
 - * What are the security measures in place for students and the community accessing the park n ride during the off-peak hours?
 - * What kind of compensation are you providing the neighborhoods nearby, as their home values are bound to decrease? (Is this part of the \$23mil?)
 - * Have you thought of the added dangers to the community because of the nearby wooded areas where the homeless may potentially camp out while not in the shelter?
- Looking forward to receiving your responds to the questions.

Amy

11/9/2016

I am a homeowner in Robinswood which is right across the 148th Street from Bellevue College and am opposed to the proposed location for the men's shelter. It is too close to the college and endangers the students, especially the women. I remember not that many years ago when a transient raped and murdered a woman in the bushes at Bellevue College right up the hill from where the shelter would be. This is the same route that the men would use to go to the college to hang out. The men would have nowhere else to go to socialize except the Albertson's across the freeway, the college and Robinswood Park which is full of children at all times of the day and evenings. This is a suburban neighborhood area and is inappropriate for this shelter to be placed. Please find a better area to put it in.

Cathy Daniels

11/9/2016

The need is critical. This project long overdo. Helping people get off the street should be the first priority with permanent housing and services where needed the next step. If "transitional" housing is part of the mix then it should truly be a brief stopover before long term housing is found.

(Addition): The site selection process seems thorough and the preferred choice makes perfect sense. Having an experienced non-profit managing the shelter is essential for success. And there is no evidence whatsoever that a well-designed and managed shelter poses any danger whatsoever to adjacent neighborhoods or businesses.

Tony Mazzella

11/9/2016

I'm interested to know if the people will be learning at Christ at all see that the church is involved
 You said you have a 60% success rate. That doesn't seem very high with the amount of money going into the protect and all the resources you will have available in the building. Also where to do those 40% end up going? Are we going to find more people on 150th holding signs in the morning asking for money?
 Will there be sex offenders at the location? If so, how do you see that as a good idea with the wick office nearby and young women and children going in and out of the building. Also with the school and transportation line. Women will be dropping their cars off and walking to the bus at 5am in the dark.
 I think there are far better location and think this location was picked because it's the lower income area of Bellevue, other than crossroads. The idea that it was picked because of easy transportation seems silly, you can catch a bus in Medina just as easy as Eastgate. Or over by Bellevue square. ;)

Addition: My email sounded a little negative. I support helping other and most important teaching them about Christ. I do have some concerns however.

Clancy

11/9/2016

I support CFH and the location for the Permanent Men's Shelter near Eastgate Park and Ride. What most people don't realize is that we already have a men's shelter in Bellevue that is low-barrier and we have had for years. I believe it is currently located near Chick-Fill-A. The question is expanding it and relocating it. Based on CFH's history, I see no problem with this proposal and I support it 100%.

I support CFH financially and have worked with the men serving dinner many times. I am not fearful.

Cheryl Jurrus

11/9/2016

My name is Bob Shelley. I am a member of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church. I have served on our Community Outreach Committee for several years, where we have worked with CFH on housing homeless men at our Church during the month of May each year. Our Committee has also supported the Men's and Women's Emergency Shelters over the years.

I am very pleased with the actions the Bellevue City Council is taking to locate a permanent homeless shelter near the Eastgate Park and Ride. I would like to offer my support to the Bellevue City Council as they near a vote to approve the site.

Thank you and the Bellevue City Council for your efforts in helping the homeless.

Bob Shelley

11/9/2016

Thank you so much for your compassion for, and proactive approach to alleviating homelessness in our city. I fully approve your plan to site a year round shelter in Bellevue.

Again, thank you for your willingness to see those who are often left unseen and unheard.

Suzannah V. Calvery

11/9/16

Thank you for the opportunity to share remarks about the proposed Permanent Men's Homeless Shelter during the November 7, 2016 City Council meeting. I am especially grateful that you directly acknowledged the comments made by those who spoke. Validating our concerns is the start of bringing trust back to the process.

I will take advantage of this time to share with you my perspective of the past few months. I respect the amount of email you are likely receiving so I apologize for the length of my communication.

I found out about the proposed shelter from the social media site Next Door the second week of August. I reside in the third closest condominium complex to the proposed site. There was no direct communication with homeowners other than a few flyers posted by our mailbox in late August. In early September, I hosted a stakeholder meeting in my home for homeowners with Mike McCormick Huentsman and Dwight Jackson in attendance. They were unable to answer a majority of our questions. In their defense, I don't think they were given enough information or direction from other City departments to be prepared for what was to come.

At that time, many local residents were still unaware of the project and the first community meeting was scheduled for 7 weeks after the announcement was made. With that much time in-between the announcement and the first meeting, fear and speculation took over. Many residents are still unaware, as there have been no mailings or announcements outside of the community meetings.

During this same time period, two illegal homeless encampments were discovered 100 yards from my home. I reported suspicious activity on August 26th to BPD which I shared with Mike during our stakeholder meeting. He helped me get in

touch with the right team at BPD. For your reference, these encampments were located in the wooded area just north of the Factoria Transfer Station. I could see their regular comings and goings from my bedroom window. I suspect that the tenants were the type that don't want to be found, preferring to live by their own rules. On October 29th, I received word the encampments had "moved along". It took two months to accomplish this due to the main encampment being located on private property.

There is a sub-population of homeless who look at their choice as a lifestyle, and would not be interested in availing themselves of social services. Remaining out of sight allows them to engage in illegal activities such as drug trafficking, theft or burglary. These are the homeless that cause us the most concern, not the men who hit hard times due to job loss, divorce, or other unfortunate circumstances.

Mayor Stokes, you asked us to provide feedback on how communication could have been handled. Even in this technological era, there are many who do not engage on social media forums such as Next Door or Facebook. Because of this, a project of this type and magnitude warranted a concise written communication from Council, mailed directly to homeowners. It should have included:

1. A summary of actions taken up to the date of the LOA
2. A summary of next steps
3. A list of online resources for those who wished to learn more about homelessness, CFH, etc.

Alternatively, an FAQ could have been provided. Something is better than nothing.

I also recommend the following:

1. Create a glossary or list of key terms relating to this proposed project and post to the City's website. Include definitions for "low barrier", "supportive housing", "affordable housing", "transitional housing", and any other terms that might not be widely known by ordinary citizens.
2. List the full names of the organizations, like ARCH, so people can understand completely the involvement of each agency.
3. Consider generating supporting documents similar to those drafted for the affordable housing initiative. I have reviewed what's on the City site. While the last set of documents were posted in mid-summer, what is there is informative and professional looking. The documents are the framework for what is to come.

Most agree there is a link between affordable housing and homelessness, as a general statement, and I applaud the city's goal to develop more affordable housing. Those who work here should have the opportunity to live here as well. My husband and I moved to Bellevue in 1997 because at that time, it was affordable, convenient to our workplaces and quiet. This has changed dramatically over 19 years. With the growth at Bellevue College and the Eastgate Park and Ride, my street, 139th Avenue SE, is busy virtually all day every day. It is used by commuters to bypass Richards Road, 140th SE and 148th SE. And it now is the location for the Amazon employee shuttle for Bellevue. If we decided to sell now, I'm not sure we could afford to stay in Bellevue as growth has pushed housing prices out of reach for us.

I respect the work of the CFH employees and appreciate the efforts made by Mike McCormick Huentzman. These men have taken many punches, and still continue to smile at the end of the day.

I meant what I said at the Council Meeting - I hope this can become a collaborative effort between all involved. I hope to hear from City staff when a community group is formed. I'd like nothing more than to be part of the discussion of how to work together.

Lisa Leitner

11/10/2016

Thank you for returning my call concerning the proposed Eastgate Men's Shelter Project.

As I indicated, my wife and I have concerns over the project and respectfully submit the attached statement of our views.

John & Linda Parazynski

PROPOSED EASTSIDE MEN'S SHELTER PROJECT

Nov 10, 2016

Like many of our neighbors and many of the merchants we patronize in the general area of the proposed men's shelter in Bellevue Eastgate, we are convinced that the negative aspects of this project far outweigh the benefits to be derived.

We are concerned that the facility will become a magnet for people, many from outside Bellevue, whose lifestyle and behavioral problems are incompatible with the neighborhood, and that they may pose a threat to the safety and security of students and faculty at Bellevue Community College, as well as residents of neighboring apartments and residential areas.

And neighboring small businesses in the Eastgate shopping center, as well as nearby banks, motels, car dealers, service stations, restaurants and shops are likely to be economically impacted by the on-going presence of homeless people as they loiter or wander the area. Potential clientele of these businesses might choose to avoid what they could perceive to be an unpleasant environment, with the shelter generating possible encounters, confrontations, or even criminal activity.

The Eastgate Park and Ride facility is another element of concern. While the facility represents an advantage to the shelter, it also has the potential for safety and security problems as shelter clients interact with bus riders, some or many of whom are unaccompanied women or children.

The issue of continued growth in the adjacent I-90 technology corridor is also a consideration, in that presence of the shelter might cause prospective tenants to question this location as suitable for their operations.

Finally, as retired, long-time residents of the area, my wife and I are concerned that property values of many homes in the general area will likely be depressed if the project becomes a reality. Surely, alternative sites, without the negative aspects outlined here, must be available.

We, and obviously many others directly affected by the Eastgate shelter proposal, feel strongly that this is a misguided proposal, and respectfully request that the Council, in its wisdom, reject this proposal and ask the Planning Department to develop more acceptable and more community-friendly options.

John & Linda Parazynski
15627 SE 45th St
Bellevue, WA 98006

11/10/2016

Thank you so much for your reply.

We wish to state for the record that we retract our suggestion to consider the Eastgate Way - KC Solid Waste Transfer Station as a homeless shelter site since Council member Robertson pointed out to us that it is within 1,000 feet of a cluster of businesses that are used by 10,000 children. We would only support the PSE substation site for the homeless shelter and it must NOT be a "low-barrier" shelter without strict entry screening requirements.

Since you are adding the community's comments into the record, to be addressed by the Council on Nov 28, we are forwarding to you a second email exchange with Council member Robertson to which she has responded:

Our email to Council member Robertson on Nov 8, 2016:

"Dear Council member Robertson,

We appreciate very much your prompt response to our plea and we had the pleasure to hear you make reference to a guiding principle "Right site, right size, right standards" for the homeless shelter at last night's City Council meeting. The large turnout last night showed the community's concern on this important decision that has major impact on our Eastgate community. Any wrong decision on the location and mismanagement of the homeless shelter will be disastrous, so it's critical that more time is spent on the search for the right location and right standards to manage the shelter.

We reiterate that we are in favor of providing a homeless shelter for the needy but in the right location and under the right management. It must not be "low-barrier" without any entry screening and adequate supervision to ensure safety to the community. Entry pre-screening must be made a prerequisite for admission.

In your below response, you explained that the parcel by the transfer station was far from ideal due to its being within 1,000 feet of a cluster of businesses that cater to 10,000 children between the age of 3 and 18.

Then what about the Public Health site that's only 800 feet from single family homes, and the Bellevue College that is attended by thousands of teens and young women, and the Eastgate Park and Ride used by school kids, daily commuters to Bellevue College as well as the community? In addition, there are residents of two hotels Hyatt House and Silver Cloud, and many businesses nearby.

The Public Health site certainly does not meet the criteria proposed by the City Council:

"No existing residential adjacent, and outside single family neighborhoods"

As for the PSE substation site, will the City Council pursue it with the City? This site stands out among the various locations proposed as the one that is removed from a residential neighborhood.

Thank you again for your support."

Many thanks.

Kin Chi Yan an Sui Yan Tan

11/10/16

Thank you so much for working with Congregations for the Homeless to site a permanent men's shelter in Bellevue! Bellevue desperately needs this building, the need is being driven by a mismatch between rents on the Eastside and the wages or benefits that a normal person receives. We want our Eastside city to be diverse and welcoming to all people, but we are seeing more and more that low-income folks are being forced out into South King County or farther. Offering emergency services in Bellevue, at a permanent location so people can depend on it, will enable people to stay in their communities and when they get back on their feet, they will not be dislocated. Eastgate is a great location, near public transit so crucial to being able to get to work, services and doctors, and the Public Health building there is just an added bonus. I think the proximity to Bellevue College is also a great plus, as many men who are homeless need re-training and continuing education to re-enter the workforce, and that is in line with BC's mission. Also, as UW and Seattle U have realized, proximity of the college to actual people experiencing homelessness is a great educational opportunity and the partnerships that result are beneficial to both sides.

I am very excited to watch the evolution of the Eastside's response to the homelessness emergency, and this is a great step forward. Thank you.

Karina O'Malley
Kirkland, WA

11/10/2016

I'd like to offer further input on proposed siting for a Men's Shelter, to include in the mix of public comments for Nov 28th reviews. Thank you:

1- The proposed location is ideally set in the midst of public, vital services that are important to advance transition to a productive life and opportunities for these unfortunate Americans. Concerns about nearby populations of neighborhoods, businesses and schools will be the same or similar to any other location near public transit or business area. We can trust our professional planners and public agencies to select the best location.

2- Ability to quickly develop the area on public land will streamline the construction process and reduce costs for taxpayers. Both of these factors are important for making a timely impact on homeless people's lives. Needless delays will only drive up costs and block forward progress. Planners need to be clear with effected people why this site is better than other readily available options. Then move to getting it done.

3- Existing homeless population is already congregating near Bellevue schools, libraries, near parking lots, around businesses or in public parks (surrounded by homes). However, the services and support they need to move on with their lives is not centralized, nor available as now is afforded for the female homeless population in Bellevue. Without help, this matter will only continue to grow worse. Speed of creating a solution is very important, reducing risks for the most unfortunate citizens; and also for Bellevue's population at large.

4- Bellevue has a huge shortfall of affordable housing for people who come here to work. Homelessness and lack of affordable housing are entwined and cannot be resolved without action on the part of all taxpayers, faith communities, support agencies and public leaders. Our leaders in government are in a good position to act if they choose. We need to be bold and brave for the sake of those who need help.

Dwight Schrag

11/10/2016

Hi all. I know you have a lot to read but this article is quite descriptive of what we all are working on. Worth a bit of time.

Steve

<http://www.bizneworleans.com/October-2016/City-Announces-Plans-To-Establish-A-Low-Barrier-Shelter-For-The-Homeless/>

11/10/2016

We met at the first informational community meeting at the Champion's Center. I am a community volunteer who spoke enthusiastically in support of the proposed shelter. Due to travel I missed the last meeting and will miss the upcoming meeting with the Bellevue city council.

I am contacting you again to enthusiastically support the Work of CFH and Imagine Housing and the proposed Eastside Men's shelter in East-gate. I am a retired federal employee and Bellevue School District teacher and an active volunteer with CFH. Last year I was happy to spend one day a week helping to prepare breakfast and lunch at the men's day center. Once that gets started back up please be assured I will be volunteering there again. At the Day center I met men who are our friends and neighbors--- most just experiencing some bumps in life that can temporarily derail one without a good support system. Never did I fear for my safety. The program is amazingly well run and is the best investment in my mind for move men form our community beyond homelessness. I also volunteer with Imagine Housing and in my classroom have seen the difference permanent housing can make in the lives of Bellevue School District students.

I am so proud of my city for taking this bold move and becoming an example for the region in serving humanity. Please know that I believe you have found the best and most appropriate location for the Men's shelter. If I may do more to

speak in support of this effort and encourage others, please contact me. And again, I am so sorry I will be gone for the City Council meeting.

Claudia R. Browsers

11/10/2016

Thank you so much for working with Congregations for the Homeless to site a permanent men's shelter in Bellevue! Bellevue desperately needs this building, the need is being driven by a mismatch between rents on the Eastside and the wages or benefits that a normal person receives. We want our Eastside city to be diverse and welcoming to all people, but we are seeing more and more that low-income folks are being forced out into South King County or farther. Offering emergency services in Bellevue, at a permanent location so people can depend on it, will enable people to stay in their communities and when they get back on their feet, they will not be dislocated. Eastgate is a great location, near public transit so crucial to being able to get to work, services and doctors, and the Public Health building there is just an added bonus. I think the proximity to Bellevue College is also a great plus, as many men who are homeless need re-training and continuing education to re-enter the workforce, and that is in line with BC's mission. Also, as UW and Seattle U have realized, proximity of the college to actual people experiencing homelessness is a great educational opportunity and the partnerships that result are beneficial to both sides.

I am very excited to watch the evolution of the Eastside's response to the homelessness emergency, and this is a great step forward. Thank you.

Karina O'Malley
Kirkland, WA

11/11/2016

As long-time residents of Bellevue, we have been involved with Bellevue's Congregation for Homeless (CFH) program for many years. Our congregation at Grace Lutheran has been a host congregation for the program from the beginning and we have both assisted in that hosting activity during the months the program is housed at our local church. The work done by CFH in coordinating this church-based service has been a critical part of our past efforts to address the needs of homeless men in our greater Bellevue community.

We urge you to move ahead with the permanent building as described in the recent Seattle Times editorial and feel it will be an important element of our attempt to show concern for those in our community who have fallen on hard times relative to housing, food, and other basic needs.

We are former educators with the Bellevue School District, Judy as a 1st grade teacher and Howard as one-time principal of Interlake High School and Deputy Superintendent at the time of retirement from the school system. Based on our work with young people in the Bellevue community, we know that this need for shelter and related support services has never been greater and we urge the Council to continue to do its part in helping our citizens move out of homelessness.

Thank you for your work in this effort to support a more permanent homeless shelter in Bellevue.

Howard and Judy Johnson

11/11/2016

I am writing to support the creation of the permanent men's shelter and supportive housing at 14350 SE Eastgate Way. We have a homelessness crisis on our hands and the time to act is now!

Michelle Mentzer

11/11/2016

Thank you for the opportunity to share remarks about the proposed Permanent Men's Homeless Shelter during the November 7, 2016 City Council meeting. I am especially grateful that you directly acknowledged the comments made by those who spoke. Validating our concerns is the start of bringing trust back to the process.

I will take advantage of this time to share with you my perspective of the past few months. I respect the amount of email you are likely receiving so I apologize for the length of my communication.

I found out about the proposed shelter from the social media site Next Door the second week of August. I reside in the third closest condominium complex to the proposed site. There was no direct communication with homeowners other than a few flyers posted by our mailbox in late August. In early September, I hosted a stakeholder meeting in my home for homeowners with Mike McCormick Huentsman and Dwight Jackson in attendance. They were unable to answer a majority of our questions. In their defense, I don't think they were given enough information or direction from other City departments to be prepared for what was to come.

At that time, many local residents were still unaware of the project and the first community meeting was scheduled for 7 weeks after the announcement was made. With that much time in-between the announcement and the first meeting, fear and speculation took over. Many residents are still unaware, as there have been no mailings or announcements outside of the community meetings.

During this same time period, two illegal homeless encampments were discovered 100 yards from my home. I reported suspicious activity on August 26th to BPD which I shared with Mike during our stakeholder meeting. He helped me get in touch with the right team at BPD. For your reference, these encampments were located in the wooded area just north of the Factoria Transfer Station. I could see their regular comings and goings from my bedroom window. I suspect that the tenants were the type that don't want to be found, preferring to live by their own rules. On October 29th, I received word the encampments had "moved along". It took two months to accomplish this due to the main encampment being located on private property.

There is a sub-population of homeless who look at their choice as a lifestyle, and would not be interested in availing themselves of social services. Remaining out of sight allows them to engage in illegal activities such as drug trafficking, theft or burglary. These are the homeless that cause us the most concern, not the men who hit hard times due to job loss, divorce, or other unfortunate circumstances.

Mayor Stokes, you asked us to provide feedback on how communication could have been handled. Even in this technological era, there are many who do not engage on social media forums such as Next Door or Facebook. Because of this, a project of this type and magnitude warranted a concise written communication from Council, mailed directly to homeowners. It should have included:

1. A summary of actions taken up to the date of the LOA
2. A summary of next steps
3. A list of online resources for those who wished to learn more about homelessness, CFH, etc.

Alternatively, an FAQ could have been provided. Something is better than nothing.

I also recommend the following:

1. Create a glossary or list of key terms relating to this proposed project and post to the City's website. Include definitions for "low barrier", "supportive housing", "affordable housing", "transitional housing", and any other terms that might not be widely known by ordinary citizens.

2. List the full names of the organizations, like ARCH, so people can understand completely the involvement of each agency.

3. Consider generating supporting documents similar to those drafted for the affordable housing initiative. I have reviewed what's on the City site. While the last set of documents were posted in mid-summer, what is there is informative and professional looking. The documents are the framework for what is to come.

Most agree there is a link between affordable housing and homelessness, as a general statement, and I applaud the city's goal to develop more affordable housing. Those who work here should have the opportunity to live here as well.

My husband and I moved to Bellevue in 1997 because at that time, it was affordable, convenient to our workplaces and quiet. This has changed dramatically over 19 years. With the growth at Bellevue College and the Eastgate Park and Ride, my street, 139th Avenue SE, is busy virtually all day every day. It is used by commuters to bypass Richards Road, 140th SE and 148th SE. And it now is the location for the Amazon employee shuttle for Bellevue. If we decided to sell now, I'm not sure we could afford to stay in Bellevue as growth has pushed housing prices out of reach for us.

I respect the work of the CFH employees and appreciate the efforts made by Mike McCormick Huentsman. These men have taken many punches, and still continue to smile at the end of the day.

I meant what I said at the Council Meeting - I hope this can become a collaborative effort between all involved. I hope to hear from City staff when a community group is formed. I'd like nothing more than to be part of the discussion of how to work together.

Lisa Leitner

11/11/16

I just wanted you to know how proud I am of my city because of the decision to establish the permanent homeless shelter by the Eastgate transit center. I work in Auburn in a job where I see homelessness and the complexities of the problem first hand, and I think this shelter is a very sensible response. I also live about a mile and a half from the proposed shelter, and perhaps that's close enough for me to say, "yes in my back yard!" Thank you for all you do to find solutions to the very difficult and multi-headed problem of homelessness.

Robbin Price

11/11/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.

I disagree with the objections made at the hearing last week as reported by the Seattle Times. The Eastgate location is great for this shelter. It is near a Park and Ride for transportation, and is near the health department. It is not close enough to any schools to be a problem. It is about as far from any residential areas as one can get in Bellevue. A permanent shelter, especially if it includes transitional housing, will be a vast improvement over the tent city at the crossroads temple. It is disgraceful for people to live in soggy tents in this wealthy city, considering the long wet weather season in the Northwest.

Let me know how I can help with this effort.

Ruth I. Kimball

11/11/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness.

Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.

Stephanie Dermont

11/11/2016

I am writing you to support the Bellevue City Council's Decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the city of Bellevue. I am a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai and believe that it is important to provide support for men and women to move off the streets and into housing. I realize that this is a men's shelter and am so pleased that Bellevue will provide hot meals, plus a warm and dry place to sleep. That this transitional housing will provide social services as well as permanent transitional housing aligns with my Jewish values. As a former employee of Jewish Family Service, and a former teacher in the Bellevue School District, this is the right thing to do. So I thank you and the City of Bellevue for your support as well as that of King County and the Congregations for the Homeless.

Best regards,

Ellen Hendin

11/11/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.

Ada Danelo

11/11/2016

I support the Bellevue city councils decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the city of Bellevue.

Julie Kohl

11/11/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness.

Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.

Julie Schoenfeld

11/11/2016

"As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community."

Jane Isenberg

11/11/2016

Support Homeless Shelter

Yes!

Barbara Schatz

11/11/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.
Rachel Stoner

11/11/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, also a resident. I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.
Hope Bell

11/11/2016

Thank you so much for working with Congregations for the Homeless to site a permanent men's shelter in Bellevue! Bellevue desperately needs this building, the need is being driven by a mismatch between rents on the Eastside and the wages or benefits that a normal person receives. We want our Eastside city to be diverse and welcoming to all people, but we are seeing more and more that low-income folks are being forced out into South King County or farther. Offering emergency services in Bellevue, at a permanent location so people can depend on it, will enable people to stay in their communities and when they get back on their feet, they will not be dislocated. Eastgate is a great location, near public transit so crucial to being able to get to work, services and doctors, and the Public Health building there is just an added bonus. I think the proximity to Bellevue College is also a great plus, as many men who are homeless need re-training and continuing education to re-enter the workforce, and that is in line with BC's mission. Also, as UW and Seattle U have realized, proximity of the college to actual people experiencing homelessness is a great educational opportunity and the partnerships that result are beneficial to both sides.

I am very excited to watch the evolution of the Eastside's response to the homelessness emergency, and this is a great step forward. Thank you.

Karina O'Malley

11/11/2016

"As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community."
Laurie Cohen

11/11/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.
Leora Bloom

11/11/2016

Attention: Those Making Decision on Permanent Homeless Shelter in Bellevue

As long-time residents of Bellevue, we have been involved with Bellevue's Congregation for Homeless (CFH) program for many years. Our congregation at Grace Lutheran has been a host congregation for the program from the beginning and

we have both assisted in that hosting activity during the months the program is housed at our local church. The work done by CFH in coordinating this church-based service has been a critical part of our past efforts to address the needs of homeless men in our greater Bellevue community.

We urge you to move ahead with the permanent building as described in the recent Seattle Times editorial and feel it will be an important element of our attempt to show concern for those in our community who have fallen on hard times relative to housing, food, and other basic needs.

We are former educators with the Bellevue School District, Judy as a 1st grade teacher and Howard as one-time principal of Interlake High School and Deputy Superintendent at the time of retirement from the school system. Based on our work with young people in the Bellevue community, we know that this need for shelter and related support services has never been greater and we urge the Council to continue to do its part in helping our citizens move out of homelessness.

Thank you for your work in this effort to support a more permanent homeless shelter in Bellevue.
Howard and Judy Johnson

11/11/16

As a member of Temple B'nai Torah, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.

As a volunteer at Tent City 4 at Temple B'nai Torah, I was privileged to meet several homeless people. They were all kind, thankful, and not in any way threatening. These were people that just needed a little help getting back on their feet in order to transition to a permanent residence.

It is imperative of us as a society to look out for those most in need and not simply turn a blind eye.
Matthew Titelbaum

11/11/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.
Diana Barnes

11/11/2016

I am a concerned citizen. We need to figure out how to alleviate homelessness Please do something about it.
Ashley wax

11/11/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thank you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.
Sari Israel

11/12/16

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.
Melissa Benaroya

11/12/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.
Alan Koslow

11/12/2016

I am a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, and live in the Lake Hills area of Bellevue. I am pleased to add my voice to others who support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness.

I am passionate about eliminating homelessness in our community, the greater metro area, the state and our world. I have served on the board of directors of Friends of Youth for 6 years. I know first hand what the safety of a home, and the support of professional staff and volunteers can do to empower a youth to self-sufficiency. We must, as a community, offer support to those who cannot yet begin the journey on their own.

Thanks to the city council for helping clear the path, and thank you for supporting the most vulnerable in our community.
Janet Turpen

11/12/2016

I am writing to you as a long time volunteer for CFH. I am a changed woman since I started helping. I was afraid years ago, but now I am an advocate for these men who need a voice and a helping hand. I now sit with them, as they eat their dinner that volunteers made and hear stories that are sad. These are men, who did not choose this homeless situation, but can tell you how they got there and are so happy to have been chosen to become self sufficient through CFH. Bellevue has a tried and true program that has been working for many years, within the city. Bellevue has a chance to enhance this amazing program, not create a new untried program, but to "reach for the gold ring" and approve CFH program, that many volunteers have been quietly helping men bring back their dignity.

Thank you for listening and caring.

Deanna Oeffner (CFH volunteer)

11/12/2016

"As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community."

The growing population on the entire Eastside includes a growing population of people in need of essential services. The sooner this can be addressed including building permanate shelter the better it is for the entire Eastside communities.
Emmi Kearns

11/12/2016

I enthusiastically support the proposed permanent shelter to be located in the Eastgate area. I have worked with CFH since 2005 and my church congregation was a founding host in 1994. In those years I have watched Steve Roberts, David Johns Bowling, and the rest of the CFH staff learn and grow the program from a crash shelter in 1994 to a functional shelter community. They operate from a set of principles and from sound social systems understanding that have allowed them to expand their function into a low barrier day center and winter shelter. I have also volunteered at these sites and they are just as calm and organized as the higher barrier overnight shelter. The populations are clearly different but the environment is just as safe and useful. I think this is because they know what they are doing and will be the perfect organization to help the homeless community.

Thank you for caring about the Homeless in our midst and for caring about the safety for all Eastside residents.

Beth Zobel

11/12/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.

Jordan Goldwarg

11/12/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.

Adam Tucker

(Senior at Mercer Island High School)

11/12/2016

I belong to Temple De Hirsch and I support the Bellevue site that you picked out near the public health building and park and ride. I have attended the meetings you have had but will read about the next meeting. I am not able to attend the next meeting.

We appreciate all what you are doing. I sent a previous email and forgot to mention this.

Linda Seligman

11/12/2016

Writing this email to express concern/ objection regarding proposed Eastgate homeless shelter. There are many families with children and young adults in this community that have concern about impact of homeless shelter on safety for the community.

Liz Luna

11/12/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, and Temple B'nai Torah, a neighbor in Crossroads, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.

Please do everything you can to realize this invaluable shelter for the homeless community.

Adrienne Clark

11/13/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.

Rachel Kunert-Graf

11/13/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.

Beth Featherstone

11/13/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.

Keith Weinbaum

11/13/2016

"As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community."

Vicki Goldstein

11/14/16

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.

Richard Greenberg

11/14/2016

This notes serves as our support of the CFH Bellevue permanent shelter. Thank for recognizing this great organization.

Henry Weaks

11/14/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thank you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.

Sarah Sklare

11/14/16

Instead of spending \$20 million of the Bellevue taxpayers money on a private performing entertainment center (PEC), why don't you redirect the funding to designing and building a co-ed homeless facility (CEHF) in the heart of the BelRed area, say near one of the two light rail stations? The wealthy members of the City, and the other contributors to the entertainment center fund (which is a private-enterprise operation) can easily raise the money to build the center

without the taxpayers' help! Further, only the wealthy patrons will be able to use the PEC, so why not let them pay for it?

Moreover, the BelRed area is the perfect place for the CEHF because it has (or will have) excellent public transportation services, and growing job opportunities. Property acquisition should be no problem because the City will be condemning or purchasing properties for the roads and parks that are planned for BelRed. The City staff already has wide access to many design firms (how about Balmori Associates), and if you'd enlist the aid of Habitat for Humanity, and get the future occupants of the CEHF to help with construction (to give them a 'stake' in the enterprise), it would help speed the CEHF into existence. The \$20 million diverted from the PEC should be more than adequate to proceed with this project.

Indeed, if, say, 250 homeless persons needed temporary shelter during CEHF's design and construction, they could be temporarily housed in the many rental units coming available in the BelRed Spring District; rents could be subsidized with part of the \$20 million, or by use of some of the income from Proposition 2 (ordinance 6304 gives you wide latitude to use the funds as you see fit, so why not direct them to a worthwhile purpose ...).

I'm looking forward to your favorable, farsighted response to this proposal.

David F. Plummer

11/14/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.

Ilan R Speizer

11/14/16

I am a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in the Eastgate area.

I am writing to express my full support of the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Now, more than ever, we must do everything we can to protect our society's most vulnerable members. ALL people are created equal.

Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.

Michael Hirsch

11/14/2016

I'd like to take a moment to voice my support of the men's shelter both as a local temple member (as in the statement below) and as somebody who has used the Eastgate Park & Ride many times in the past. I have found, in commuting, that the Park & Ride (and nearby freeway bus stop) provides the sort of excellent transit access which would be crucial in ensuring that people have sufficient access to all the resources and opportunities in the region.

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.

Dr. James Kunert-Graf

11/14/2016

I support your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue. I love the work CFH is doing to help men move out of homelessness. I have been aware of the work CFH has done for years and believe they are the best possible stewards, to

manage this effort. If CFH were not involved, I would not be sending this support, but I have every confidence, they will skillfully manage all aspects, including respecting and protecting the concerns of the larger community.

Jennifer Wilson

11/14/2016

I am encouraged by the recent proposal to help homeless men transition off of the streets by providing a comprehensive solution to this complex problem. The idea of placing a homeless shelter in the Eastgate area where they can receive a multitude of services seems like a wise approach and hopefully can be something that truly helps these men move forward in life in a positive direction instead of simply trying to find a short term fix to a political problem.

Partnering with Congregations for the Homeless is also an excellent idea as they understand the homeless community and the root causes of homelessness.

Joe Yoshihara

11/14/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.

Kate Hinely

11/14/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community!

Rabbi Kate Speizer

Adult Engagement Coordinator

[Temple De Hirsch Sinai](#)

11/14/2016

I want to register my support for the homeless shelter. I've been a homeowner for 21 years and have had Tent Cities in my neighborhood several times in the past. I've never noticed any issues with them. I know we have many Bellevue residents who desperately need this shelter.

Nanci Vaeth

11/15/2016

I support the proposed Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing to be located in Eastgate. I believe there is a great need in Bellevue for emergency shelter, as well as supportive housing to transition people out of homelessness. I believe the Eastgate location's accessibility to transit, health services, and educational resources make it ideal. Imagine Housing and Congregations for the Homeless are experienced partners for the city.

Thank you, Councilors, for proceeding in a positive way on this important issue.

Andrea Feist

11/14/2016

I am in favor of the City of Bellevue's plan for a permanent shelter and support services for homeless people.

Mary Miller

11/15/2016

I'm a Bellevue city resident residing at 3966 112th Ave NE 98004. I wanted to let you know that I fully support the building of the Eastside Men's Shelter in the Eastgate area. The joint efforts by Bellevue, King County and surrounding

cities to assist the homeless men identified by the Congregations for the Homeless is a good step forward to help those in need.

Johan H. Jansen

11/15/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help people move out of homelessness.

Thank you for standing in support of those most in need in our community,

Leslie Rousso

11/16/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.

Donna Richman

11/16/2016

I read in the Seattle Times about the community opposition to building a permanent men's shelter on the Eastside. I understand fears about housing people who have substance abuse or mental health issues in the neighborhood. But I wanted to make sure you also heard from people on the Eastside like me, who are in support of the shelter and the work done by Congregations for the Homeless.

Adjusting from being a sleepy suburb to a city isn't always easy. I grew up on the Eastside (in Redmond) and know the feelings of loss first-hand. But we must admit that the issue of homelessness, which we often associate with urban areas, is already on the Eastside. It's not "a Seattle problem." We can see homeless people in our neighborhoods, on our street corners or sleeping in cars. As a matter of fact, when I had dinner this week with a couple of the men at CFH, both happened to be born and raised on the Eastside! It's also worth noting that cities that hosted Tent City didn't report a greater incidence of crime. In contrast, I can only imagine that providing shelters with bathrooms and garbage facilities would help beautify our neighborhoods.

I've seen the work of Congregations for the Homeless. By meeting homeless people where they are and providing food and shelter, they help people get ready to take the support of public health services, and they form a foundation so people can go through the long and hard path to recovery. Congregations for the Homeless is well-run and has an excellent record of helping people on the path to stable housing, and healthy and productive lives. The selected homeless shelter location is the best I could imagine on the Eastside, and is desperately needed for our homeless Eastside neighbors.

Kaarin Shumate, Kirkland resident

11/17/2016

We live in the east gate area and fully support placing the proposed shelter there. Thank you for working with congregations for the homeless and Steve Roberts.

Terry and Donna Lemke, 46 years at 2016 W LK Samm Pk Wy Se Bellevue WA 98008.

11/17/2016

I HAVE NOW TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE COMPLETE PROPOSAL. I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE WHAT I HAVE READ! WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN OUR SOCIETY? A "LOW BARRIER" FACILITY IS UNACCEPTABLE AS PROPOSED. THIS FACILITY WOULD BE SURROUNDED BY THOUSANDS OF YOUTH OF ELEMENTARY,SECONDARY, AND COLLEGE AGE AND THEY COULD INNOCENT VICTIMS OF HOMELESS WITH CRIMINAL, ADDICTIVE, OR IRRESPONSIBLE HISTORIES. CAN YOU IMAGINE THE LEGAL LIABILITY IF SUCH A VICTIMIZATION SHOULD OCCUR? I CAN HEAR IT NOW: PROGRAM FACILITATORS SAYING, "OOPS!" , WHILE WE, THE TAXPAYERS ,PICK UP THE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF WORTH OF CLAIM PAYMENTS JUST AS HAS OCCURRED WITH DSHS. YOU MAY FEEL MY RESPONSE IS HARSH BUT IT IS COMING FROM ONE WHO SPENT 37 YEARS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF HELPING OTHERS AS AN ELEMENTARY,SECONDARY AND COLLEGE TEACHER, COUNSELOR, PRINCIPAL, AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR. DO I RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR THE HOMELESS? YES, BUT NOT AS PROPOSED.
LARRY NOEL

11/17/2016

I am a resident of Bellevue and have been involved as a volunteer with Congregations for the Homeless for 20+ years (my home church is Cross of Christ Lutheran). Over the years, CFH has done an outstanding job of meeting the needs of homeless men while working closely with the community. Their outcomes are unprecedented in terms of returning men to the workplace and placing them in permanent housing. I say this as a community based researcher who has been involved with a respite care project for the homeless in Lake City for five years. Success rates in other programs are far less than CHF. What makes the CHF program successful is their approach to providing men with the social services that can move them out of homelessness rather than just a place to seek temporary shelter. The proposed shelter and day center with supportive services will continue this approach.

In summary, I strongly support the decision of the Bellevue City Council to provide a much needed permanent shelter on the Eastside.

Dr. Bonnie Bowie

11/17/2016

I am the Rector of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, on Factoria Blvd in Bellevue. I support your decision to create a permanent shelter in Bellevue, and our congregation is ready to do what we can to help make this a reality.

Our congregation appreciates the work that Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Since 1994, St. Margaret's has partnered with CFH in housing the homeless on the Eastside, hosting the rotating shelter and partnering with Imagine Housing to build affordable housing on our campus.

Thank you for your leadership as a council for being farsighted in addressing this issue. I hope you will continue to work toward eliminating the underlying causes of homelessness which can be addressed at your level. The problem of homelessness can be greatly decreased if work continues to be done at all levels. We want to do our part, and we support you in your decision.

The Rev. Christina Jillard

11/17/2016

Good afternoon. I am writing this email in support of the proposed homeless shelter in Eastgate. I understand having a homeless shelter can be unsettling to those nearby but it is so necessary with such a large homeless/displaced population. I am a long term member of the First Congregational Church in Bellevue and would like to testify that these men are men that they can trust. I helped last night at the church with feeding them dinner and had the opportunity to spend a couple hours with them. They were gracious, appreciative and non-threatening. While I know that not everyone coming to the potential shelter would be the same, this is such a needed service and would hope that everyone on the council supports and approves it.

Judy Garni

11/17/2016

My name is Annie Perry. I was born and raised in Bellevue, and my husband and I are currently building a house so that we can raise our future family in Bellevue as well. I really love this city and its diversity.

I wanted to be able to come to a city council meeting in person to be able to say this, but since my work schedule conflicts with attending, I figured an e-mail would suffice. I want to voice my support for the permanent homeless shelter that is proposed in Eastgate. I do not live in that area, so I may not be as directly affected as other city residents, but I work as a social worker in Overlake's emergency department so I am constantly seeing the need for better services on the eastside. When the winter shelter is not operating and we are discharging someone who is homeless in the evening, our only options are to send them to a shelter in Seattle (assuming there are openings) or to literally discharge them to the street. Being able to provide a safe option on the eastside would be amazing. [Let me also take a moment to make it clear that I am writing to you today as a private citizen, NOT as a hospital employee.]

Bellevue is a great place to live and it's a great community. I'm proud to live somewhere so racially diverse, and I can only hope that we extend our diversity to include the homeless as well. I think building a permanent shelter on the eastside with such easy access to a transit center is a no-brainer.

Annie Perry

11/17/2016

I would like to voice my support for the building of a homeless shelter for men in the Eastgate area, near the Eastgate Park & Ride/King County Health Center/Bellevue College. While I recognize that some dangers related to drug use and mental instability are a matter of concern, I would hope that the facility would be managed as carefully as possible for the safety of those living nearby. This location does seem to have many advantages (close to public transportation, health care and educational opportunities) and so I feel comfortable supporting it, even though I do live within a few miles of the area.

Franja Bryant

11/17/2016

I have been very impressed with the thought and planning that has gone into the locating of the men's homeless shelter in the Eastgate area so close to public health and the Park & Ride.

I'm sorry so many have raised such a ruckus about this.

It sounds to me like our elected officials are doing what we hired them to do.

Thank all for their hard work.

Mikel Oswald

11/18/2016



Board of Directors

Steve Baber
Eastside Interfaith Social
Concerns Council

Siri Bleisner
Lake Washington School
Board

Lisa Callan
Issaquah School Board

John Chelminiak
Bellevue City Council

David Downing
Alliance of Eastside
Agencies

Eric Evans
Shelter Holdings

Shahzina Karim
EvergreenHealth

Shelley Kloba
Kirkland City Council

Kathy Lambert
King County Council

Paul Leuzzi
United Way of K.C.,
Weyerhaeuser

Amy Padgett
Overlake Hospital

Terry Pottmeyer
Friends of Youth

Byron Shutz
Redmond City Council

Al Smith
Perkins Coie

Lauren Thomas
Hopelink

Mariah Bettise
Issaquah City Council

425-587-3324
505 Market Street
Kirkland, WA 98033
www.eastsideforum.org

November 18, 2016

Dear Bellevue City Councilmembers,

The Eastside Human Services Forum (EHSF) would like to express its strong support for the permanent shelter proposal. EHSF is a coalition of human service providers, funders, local elected officials, schools, public health and hospitals, and faith-based communities whose mission is to *foster strong public and private partnerships for a stable network of health and human services for the benefit of all East King County residents.*

Need

Since 2008, Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) has successfully offered a safe, warm, low barrier winter shelter for men experiencing homelessness. Last winter, over 600 men accessed this resource, many of them eventually moving on to permanent housing. Even with the number of resources here on the Eastside, the need is still not met. In fact in last year's One Night Count there were 245 individuals sleeping outside right here on the Eastside, which is an 85% increase from the year prior. Shelter providers receive many calls from community centers, libraries, churches, social services agencies, City Hall, and individual community members who have encountered the homeless and are trying to assist with finding safe shelter. Often there is long waitlist for housing, treatment, and other needed services and shelter can be the critical intervention needed to get people on the path to stability.

Concerns

We understand that many community members have expressed concerns about this shelter. We believe that CHF is committed to safety for all – both the housed and unhoused.

- The fact is that the majority of men who access the shelter have an Eastside connection – with their supports, their jobs, and/or their former residence being right here in this community.
- CFH screens for sex offenders and notifies police to ensure that they are complying with the law. It is often safer for these individuals to be inside the shelter than unsupervised out in the community.
- People experiencing homelessness are not criminals. However, when criminal behavior does occur, CFH works closely with local police to address the issue immediately.
- Some shelter users struggle with drug addiction and/or mental health issues, but they are by no means the majority. Accessing a low barrier shelter is often the first step to recovery. By building trusting relationships with the men, staff can help them to access needed services through a wide array of community partners.

The mission of Eastside Human Services Forum is to foster strong public and private partnerships to assure a stable network of health and human services for the benefit of all East King County residents.

Value of Permanent Site

Each year, before the current Sound Transit site was found, the community struggled to locate an adequate space for the winter shelter. The search often began in March in preparation for the following winter. Providing consistency and continuity of services through a permanent site will allow more men to be sheltered and allow for stronger outcomes to get them on the path to housing. Having a dedicated space for shelter, with adequate access to transit, also provides the space for necessary day time services to be offered.

Outcomes

Congregations for the Homeless offers a range of programs such as case management, access to health services, support for drug/alcohol assistance, and job search assistance. These programs are designed to provide a path from life on the street to stable, independent living. Shelter is a point of entry on the path to housing. For many, the relationship building with shelter staff builds trust, leading some to seek to end their personal cycle of homelessness. Last year CFH helped 82 men move on to permanent housing. Congregations for the Homeless has been successfully serving this low barrier population for over 8 years, building strong relationships with both the men they serve as well as community partners such as the Bellevue Police Department, mental health providers, landlords, and other community-based organizations.

Homelessness is a complex and regional issue, requiring the commitment of all segments of our community. Other cities, non-profits, and faith communities are sharing in the responsibility of providing shelter throughout the Eastside, and we applaud Bellevue's commitment to being part of the regional solution.

Sincerely,



Byron Shutz, Board Chair
Eastside Human Services Forum

11/19/2016

I am writing to voice my support for the Eastgate homeless shelter. I have lived in 3 houses in Eastgate during the last 18 years, my kids have gone to Bellevue College, and we use the Eastgate P&R daily. I can't imagine a better place, anywhere, for a homeless shelter. It has my full support.

Nancy Bos Costlow

11/19/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.

Connie Olson

11/20/2016

We have lived in the Somerset neighborhood for 16 years. We are also members of First Congregational Church of Bellevue which houses the men from Congregations for the Homeless each November. We have seen how well-run the CFH organization is and have had many opportunities to serve dinner to the men and sit down and eat with them. The thing that always strikes me is how much more like me than unlike me the homeless men are.

We support your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue and love the work CFH is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks for being a farsighted council.

I will do my best to share the word with my neighbors that the homeless are already here, sleeping in their cars or in the woods near us. The region's annual One Night Count found 245 people living outside on the Eastside this past January.

Building this shelter will not bring people who are not already here.

Thank you for work on this.

Rebecca Peck

11/20/2016

I am writing to voice my support for the Eastgate homeless shelter. I have lived in 3 houses in Eastgate during the last 18 years, my kids have gone to Bellevue College, and we use the Eastgate P&R daily. I can't imagine a better place, anywhere, for a homeless shelter. It has my full support.

Nancy Bost Coslow

11/20/2016

I am writing to express my total support for Bellevue's proposed permanent shelter for men experiencing homelessness. I have seen information on the news, in the Bellevue Reporter and at church, and I feel that this site has all the services in one area to serve the needs of these men and help them on their way to permanent housing. I am a downtown Bellevue resident and would feel the same way if there was a spot here that provided these very essential social and medical services. I am proud of Bellevue for facing this challenge in a concrete way and hope that the voices of support will be heard.

Peg Nakatsu

11/20/2016

I support my congregation's initiative for the homeless

Mark Fishman

11/20/2016

I am writing to express my total support for Bellevue's proposed permanent shelter for men experiencing homelessness. I have seen information on the news, in the Bellevue Reporter and at church, and I feel that this site has

all the services in one area to serve the needs of these men and help them on their way to permanent housing. I am a downtown Bellevue resident and would feel the same way if there was a spot here that provided these very essential social and medical services. I am proud of Bellevue for facing this challenge in a concrete way and hope that the voices of support will be heard.

Peg Nakatsu

11/21/2016

As a long time resident of Bellevue I applaud the proposal of a permanent shelter for the homeless. The site is accessible and strategic. It is definitely needed. Please carry through with the plan and sustain our reputation as a diverse and welcoming city.

Philip L. Eisenhauer

11/21/2016

I understand that the Bellevue City Council is considering a permanent homeless shelter for the city of Bellevue. Our city needs a permanent building for the homeless that provides housing, gathering space and services in one location. Please vote in favor to provide support and assistance to the homeless with a permanent homeless shelter.

Debra Dack

Bellevue Resident and Concerned Citizen

11/21/2016

As a long time resident of Bellevue I applaud the proposal of a permanent shelter for the homeless. The site is accessible and strategic. It is definitely needed. Please carry through with the plan and sustain our reputation as a diverse and welcoming city.

Philip L. Eisenhauer

11/21/2016

I am writing because I am concerned about the proposed men's shelter to be located adjacent to Bellevue College. It would put the women of the College at risk, as well as all people riding the buses at the nearby transit station (who will be libel for potential problems committed by these people)? The local residents feel that they will it be unable to go for walks in the neighborhood as safely as in the past and wouldn't be as safe in their homes.

While we have compassion for the homeless, we must use wisdom in our decisions. We do not believe that this location is a good fit for Bellevue College, the residents or the community at large. There are other possible locations to choose from. Please consider an alternate location.

Katherine Nye

11/21/2016

As a long-time Eastgate resident, I support and applaud you, our councilmembers, and the City staff for planning a shelter for homeless men, a day center, and transitional housing at a site near the Eastgate Park and Ride.

I have lived in my Eastgate home for more than 35 years and raised my children here. I know that my neighborhood west of Eastgate Elementary School has included addicts in recovery and not; homeless men living near the tennis courts of Eastgate Park; and former criminals on Department of Corrections release over the years. "They" are already among us. I am glad Bellevue is partnering with other cities, the county, Congregations for the Homeless, and other concerns to fund this much needed service complex. I consider it an excellent use of my tax dollars.

I volunteered for more than five years to host Congregations for the Homeless men's shelter at my church for a month each year in the 1990s. I helped plan for the men's stay; prepared and delivered the evening hot meal once a month during their stay; and visited with the men over their dinner. I recall that at that time about 40 percent of the 22 or so men were employed. I remember talking with an architect whose buddy had abruptly moved out of their shared apartment. The architect couldn't afford his rent alone and was saving up money to afford an apartment for himself in

three months. Another guy I talked with worked full-time at a call center along the nearby I-90 corridor. Most of the men seemed to be from or work in Bellevue or the Eastside.

As for the women students at Bellevue College (whom some critics of your plan seem eager to protect,) we and the women students can and probably have walked past homeless men, addicts, and folks with criminal records on the BC campus and in downtown Bellevue, Factoria, and Crossroads. We need to help provide for these people among us. We need to answer fears with information and reality.

This site is a GREAT location. If you want me to speak up or show up, I shall work to meet the commitment.

Susan Wineke

11/21/2016

Please enter my comments into the record on this matter.

I support the proposal for the homeless shelter. A common theme I have read from those opposed is that the homeless residents will present a risk to the safety and welfare of children and adults living in the vicinity.

I have a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from the University of Washington (1976), and I retired from a 40-year career focused on the health, safety and welfare of children and families. Much of my work involved responding to Domestic Violence, substance abuse, homelessness and mental health in the context of child maltreatment, with legal interventions.

Far more frequently, children are abused and harmed by their own family members than by strangers or third party assailants. This is also true for adults and older teens, in intimate partnerships and/or marriage. A low-barrier men's shelter in a community would not increase the risk of harm to children, or adults. Bellevue has had various forms of men's shelters in our communities already.

While some homeless men may have substance abuse issues, so might one's own neighbors. The same is true for registered sex offenders; they already reside in every neighborhood. It is always better to know where an RSO lives, even in a homeless shelter, than to have one homeless and unaccounted for. Surveillance by authorities is effective. The location proposed is next to a transportation hub, a public health center, and a college. One cannot imagine a better situation for men who may need to take the bus, get health care, and perhaps receive vocational training and enter or even complete college.

As to the complaint that this is too close to family residences - what would be the alternative - set them up in the outskirts of North Bend? Perhaps out on the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River? Out of sight and out of mind?

I think the opposition to the plan is a fear-based, "Not-In-My Backyard" (NIMBY) response. We need more compassion and resources for homeless men, and this shelter will go a long way toward helping them. They're already in our midst, and it is better for all if they are sleeping indoors, having meals, and have access to services.

Jeffrey H. Norman

11/21/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community.

Dr. Eric M. Heinberg

11/21/2016

I am a resident of Southeast Bellevue, living near Cougar Ridge elementary on what I describe as the northern flank of the Lakemont area.

I have been following this project and am very much in support of the project gaining approval, with the shelter becoming a reality at the proposed location adjacent to Eastgate Park and Ride.

I don't have any specific points to make regarding my support at this time. However, I am most interested in helping to make this shelter happen and will try to contribute in whatever ways are needed toward that end.

Carol Stuckey

11/21/2016

I fully support a permanent homeless shelter in Bellevue. Thank you!

Sandy Knutowski

11/22/2016

I want to personally thank you and the Bellevue City Council for your decision to site a permanent shelter in Bellevue for Congregations for the Homeless (CFH).

As Chairperson for St. Louise Catholic Church Social Concerns Commission, I am aware of the positive effect CFH has had on the homeless men on the east side. As such, we fully support their mission in many ways. Primarily, we provide donations of money, food, miscellaneous other items, and time.

Combining the shelter, day center, supportive housing, and services all in one location will definitely be an asset for the men to help them on their way to independent living.

Thank you so much for the efforts and support you and the Council are providing to make our community a better place to work, live and play.

Jackie Rial

11/22/2016

My family is involved with Congregation for the Homeless and we support the building of a permanent structure. A permanent space will provide more supportive services for those experiencing homelessness.

Suzanne Huey

11/22/2016

"As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community."

Thank you for your support.

Lynne Herer Smith

11/22/2106

I am writing in support for the proposed shelter for homeless men that the Bellevue City Council is discussing on November 28th. I think the location is good near the Park and Ride is a good one, and will enable the men to get to jobs and services.

Thank you to the City Council for addressing this important issue.

Diane Richards

11/22/2016

I imagine you probably have gotten emails with similar intention as me. I am a liberal person, and sincere care about homeless and helping people in need. However, I think it's inadequate, to ignore the safety needs of the children and students in Eastgate neighborhood.

The neighborhood, unlike downtown Bellevue, is mostly houses, townhouses, and students. While downtown has guarded apartments, more police powers, we have nothing to against any unsafe event. I don't see why the shelter should be hosted in a neighborhood like this, oppose to downtown, where more job opportunities is located. If you have an answer, I would appreciate to hear it. I care about homeless, but I'm so deeply concerned about children in our community who are used to living in a safe community.

Tian Lan

11/23/2016

I have just discovered the proposal to build a low-barrier Men's shelter in Eastgate. the material you provide here suggests that it will be built there to avoid being in close proximity to single residence homes however I live in an area with nothing but single residence homes and this proposed site is just a bit over 1200 feet from my property. I went to the link you provide in your update about this so I could get more information and leave comment:

<http://bellevuewa.gov/eastside-mensshelter.htm>

However when I go there I get a file not found (can you please explain why I am unable to leave comment). As I understand it the period for comment should still be open and it appears the council is making this impossible at this time.

If this had not been on the radio I would not even know it was happening which is not an acceptable level of consultation for a project which will have a material impact on both the value of my property and the security of my family. Why was I not informed of this proposed project I would expect a letter from the council explaining this project to those who will be effected.

I am very unhappy about this and even more unhappy that it appears that and attempt it being made to avoid allowing the nearby residents to be informed about this nor have the users of the near by park and ride been informed. If you must put a homeless shelter in the middle of a reverently area then it must be a high-barrier rather than low-barrier. You are effetely allowing people with known mental health, sex offences or drug issues to be concentrated in close proximity to my family. I have two young daughters and when I purchased property in East gate it was with the understanding I would purchasing a home in an area with low crime and good schools. With your new development you are undermining both of these.

Please take this as a formal notice of my Extreme opposition to this proposal. I will be at the next town planning meeting to specifically elevate my concerns (and you can expect me at every council meeting moving forward until I see this matter being addressed).

Eastgate is a developing area with potential for significant growth and placing a homeless shelter in the middle of it makes very little sense. Given that the justification seems to be access to the collage and the park and ride why not build this in another location which has access to a bus that comes to this park and ride instead so they can get "easy access to the medical support and collage". In fact I would ask why the location being near a park and ride is in any way a positive point. Public transport makes sense but why a park and ride ? are they going to drive from the shelter to the park and ride ?

Matthew Rahmann

Paul Tomlinson

10027 NE 129th Place Kirkland, WA 98034 206.295.1820 careerlife@msn.com

November 23, 2016

To: Bellevue City Officials

I am a semi-retired businessman that has been in management, on the Board, and volunteer to, Congregations for the Homeless (CFH). My involvement dates back 13 years when CFH was providing nightly housing services in churches but little else. There has been much change in the intervening years.

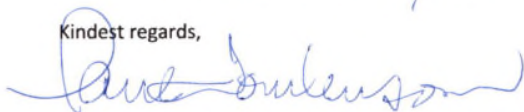
I have seen a combination of business principles and social service activities come together in CFH that has made a major positive impact in the homeless community. Homeless men will continue to be there whether the new shelter is built or not.

CFH through its staff and operational expertise (and with great support from the City of Bellevue) has provided shelter, subsidized housing and a path to independent living for scores of men. The proposed shelter, if managed by CFH, will continue to provide those services in a safe environment, for the men and the community, whatever the location.

I have counseled with multitudes of these men each month for 13 years. Media has been comparing this project to Camp Unity and other shelters. While I appreciate why the other organizations operate, there is no comparison to CFH services in my opinion. I understand the concerns of the community but I also would prefer to see these men in a "contained" environment, with case management.

My son is a Seattle Police Officer and knows the challenges of policing today. I say this because over and over I have seen the cooperation, professionalism and even empathy of the Bellevue police force working together with CFH and other organizations. A mutual effort of business, city government, law enforcement and social service agencies will not only help the men but the community.

Kindest regards,



Paul Tomlinson (Owner, Career/Life Institute)

11/23/2016

I am writing in favor establishing a 'permanent' shelter for homeless adults on the Eastside. While we may not want to admit that there is a large population of homeless people in our community the facts speak otherwise. Going back to the original plan to host Tent City, when a council member stated "Let's be honest - we just don't want these people in our community", there has been an approach that denies that Bellevue is not all well-to-do. As a responsible community, we can't continue to expect lower-income people to come into the community (at their own expense) to clean homes, do gardening and other abler, cook in restaurants, provide in-home care, then just leave, again at their own expense. It is important that every community, Bellevue included, finds a way to support people in every segment of society.

With access to both transportation and healthcare, as well as grocery stores and other services, the Eastgate location has much going for it.

The community can be well-served to provide social services to this group of individuals -- but only with the commitment that the city is fully dedicated to providing the community with the assurances that the shelter will be monitored, 24/7, so that those using the facilities do not create a significant increased risk for those who currently use the adjacent services. Simply responding to potential criminal acts will not be enough -- that is after the fact, and the idea must be *prevention*.

This might mean a significant increase in police services specifically assigned to the Park & Ride, college and health department, as well as the other adjacent businesses. It will also mean that the social services to support the residents are available on a more-than-weekly basis. With a low barrier to entry, and 100 people, those services will be critical to the success of the shelter.

I urge the Council ensure that the shelter will be thoughtfully built, operated and monitored.

Clear community on every aspect of this issue is vital to the community. Please make sure that every Bellevue household receives information on the plans, including specific actions steps they can take to voice concerns and/or support. This issue is a major one -- not only for the safety and security of the community and the shelter clients, but for every Bellevue resident who may be expected to pay, through taxes or other financial tools, the costs associated with the shelter.

Wendy Dore

11/23/2016

I am writing to express my support for the location of the men's shelter, supportive housing and affiliated social services in the Eastgate area. Homelessness is a regional problem that requires each local government to contribute to its solution. Bellevue has the need and the capacity to respond generously and creatively.

The site selected is a good one for the reasons laid out by the City particularly the partnership with King County which will help reduce costs, and the co-location of health and social services. Congregation for the Homeless is a proven and successful operator of shelter services on the Eastside.

The primary complaint against the shelter that I have read about in the newspaper and heard about on TV, and have learned about from reading the petition against the shelter seem to equate "low-barrier" men's shelters with criminality. No evidence from such shelters operated in our city or elsewhere appear to support that claim. In fact, evidence suggests a very different story, that is clients are more likely to seek services when they are not barred from shelter because of mental health issues, drug and alcohol abuse and past criminal behavior. And the petition's suggestion that the shelter be located in a downtown apartment building strikes me as disingenuous in the extreme. Working together with King County and non-profit partners, the City of Bellevue, with this project, could make significant strides in addressing homelessness in our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Tony Mazzella

11/23/2016

I am completely in favor of a shelter for homeless men in Bellevue. Data shows that once stable housing needs are met, ALL other social problems can be addressed much more successfully. Fears from the community about problems with a population that is "less fortunate" are both largely unfounded, and the "not in my back yard" mentality is small-minded and lacking in a generous spirit.

Hopefully, presenting data to the dissenters about low rates of increased crime and social problems experienced in other neighborhoods/cities that have built homeless shelters will reduce their fears.

Maris Olsen

11/23/2016

I am planning to attend the meeting at City Hall Monday the 28th but as I will not be speaking, I wished to take this opportunity to tell you how strongly I am in favor of the men's shelter at the proposed site adjacent to I-90. I know no site is perfect but this location seems ideal - near Bellevue College, a park & ride and not in a residential area. I have been involved through my church with Congregations for the Homeless for many years and that organization does an impressive job at helping men get out from under homelessness.

Jenny Pascal

11/23/2016

I have a few comments on the proposed shelter. They amount generally to support of the concept, but skepticism of the location. I think the Council and Staff could provide a good deal of additional information that would ease my concerns, but until that is presented I feel selecting this location is premature.

First, I support the low barrier nature of the proposed shelter. Much fear has been sown about this feature of the project, but I strongly believe a low barrier solution is necessary because the people who might be barred by a higher threshold will still be in our community.

- Second, I was disappointed to hear that the city staff considered the distance between this facility and single family homes important, but not between this facility and multi-family homes. The explanation given in the hearing - that this was based on utility infrastructure - did not seem reasonable. If that were the case, we would have been shown which locations shared water and sewer infrastructure, rather than their proximity.
- Third, I haven't heard a good explanation for how this project fits into redevelopment of the Eastgate neighborhood. At last we heard, the neighboring property owners were still learning about the project and giving "yellow lights". I would suggest the council make sure to get the neighboring property owners fully on board before selecting this site. If that means supporting redevelopment of the neighboring properties in some way, that would make sense to me.
- Fourth, I would like to see an evaluation of how social services like the KC public health center, affordable housing, and this shelter are spread throughout the city. I do not have a comprehensive list of facilities, but it feels like they are concentrated in the 148th corridor, Eastgate, and Factoria. If we could be shown some data that these services are spread evenly and equitably throughout the city, it would make it easier for me to support this location.
- Finally, Before we site a building on this undeveloped location, I want to make sure there is sufficient room for expansion of the Eastgate Park and Ride. As you all know, the Park and Ride is routinely at capacity, and KC Metro plans to double ridership in the I-90 corridor. This would seem to suggest that we should also double capacity of the Park and Ride. I want to make sure the council reserves sufficient land in the Eastgate area for this purpose.

Thank you for your hard work on this issue. I hope the city can answer many of these questions and build a consensus around a location for this facility, be it the proposed location or an alternative.

Graham Siebe

11/24/2016

I applaud your intention to help homeless men get back on their feet. I agree that homelessness is a big as well as a disturbing problem, and one that society has hitherto done a pretty poor job of managing. I do not purport in any way to be an expert on homelessness. But I am learning a bit in order to knowledgeably join this conversation and decision.

In a cursory examination of national studies on homelessness that are available online, I noted several important statistics that seem to be pretty well vetted: up to 65% of the homeless population at any given time is substance-addicted; roughly 25% have mental health issues; and different approaches work better for people with different profiles (women and children escaping abuse vs. substance abusing men in their 50's). It is also noted that to date, most homeless programs are not all that successful, esp. for the exact population that your proposal targets. In other words, a homeless shelter with or without various levels of intervention will be less effective for the portion of the population most likely to benefit from intervention than other programs out there (e.g. rapid rehousing), and none of the program out there are really going to work to "fix" the homeless problem with the population you are targeting.

Therefore, unless you are proposing a new approach, I think you should drop the pretense that your program is going to offer any real solution to homelessness. Instead, it's offering a way to *manage homeless people*, which in the end of the day sounds very much to me like enablement of this untenable status. I am upset that taxpayer money is being spent to enable people to engage in antisocial behavior rather than stop/fix them, and don't understand why those with mental illness are not in treatment facilities, those with addictions are not in treatment or else in isolation, lockup, etc. I am not going to attempt to set or change public policy, even though I wish I could, as I think there are some radically different ways to manage homeless addicts which have not been tried. But I am crystal clear on the truth of the old saying: The definition of insanity is to do the same thing again and expect it to turn out differently this time. We know what happens when homeless men gather in one place, and that should not be swept under the carpet.

I presume that Bellevue City Council has done due diligence and researched best practices, as well as studying cases of failures or disasters in managing homeless people, and that you are not ignoring some basic information about what we already know works and doesn't work, or works a little bit *but at way too huge of a cost to the rest of humanity*. I would hope that you are learning from the experience of thousands of cities across the world, and perhaps even designing your own visionary version of a management system. It doesn't appear that way from the facts page you presented, which sounds pretty much like every other place's description of how they manage homelessness, but your plan might be more nuanced than one page indicates.

That no existing program will fix the problem of homelessness is clear. But what I argue is that there are ways to mitigate the impact of the substandard choices you are left with, and I feel that COB has not done the appropriate due diligence in that area.

I have five main issues.

1. CRIME. It is well known by the Bellevue Police Department (a senior member of which I spoke with directly about this topic) that the homeless community generates property crime in a wide circle around the area inhabited by the homeless. This makes sense; people who are addicted to a substance but have no source of income with which to purchase it will have to find a way to get money somewhere, and the easiest ways are by prostitution, stealing, or panhandling. Given that you are targeting men, I think we can safely focus on the latter two problems. Having the Park and ride lot right next door seems like an invitation to car prowls, and that will negatively impact average people participating in park and ride, which is a huge initiative of the region. It seems

misguided to impact one very pricey long-term solution by implementing a second more fungible program that undermines the bigger and more important goal.

This “crime circle” is true in all circumstances except those with the most stringent security measures, such as Tent City. (Some colleagues of the policeman I spoke with have argued that even super-high-standard Tent City generates spikes in crime, but I am not interested in debating that.) Any site that is designated for the use of the homeless population, especially a permanent one, will therefore be expected to generate an increase in attempted criminal activity. If this criminal behavior has been hitherto unstoppable, then all planning for any homeless shelter anywhere should cease until smart people come up with a solution to prevent or swiftly stop that crime spike. It is completely unacceptable to me as a resident of this neighborhood that the City Council will knowingly condone a project that will with certainty “up” the crime level right by my house.

2. LOCATION. Related to the point above is the site you have selected for this project. Knowing that many homeless men are unpredictable and/or dangerous due to mental illness, drug addiction, felonious behavior, and worse, why on EARTH would select a location near a park and ride (a program that you are attempting to support), a 4-year undergraduate campus, let alone a densely populated family home area, with many hundreds if not thousands of children? Why not place a facility like this one next to a police department which in and of itself is a crime deterrent, and/or elsewhere off of 112th or some other more neutral zone, where there are no homes nearby? You might argue that the crime is in someone else’s yard right now. Yes, that is right – it’s mostly in downtown Seattle or under the underpasses around town, and everyone knows that. We avoid those places, which are not near families and young women going to college. We don’t have the capacity to choose to avoid our own neighborhoods all of a sudden! This is a significant IMPACT on thousands of people here who pay the taxes that support projects like this one, who do abide by the law, and who selected our neighborhood on the basis of its safety. This proposal feels like a major violation of privacy and basic safety.
3. PROTECTION. Given the points above, I would have expected COB to indicate two things. First, I would have expected that you will conduct background checks to ensure that you are not enabling the presence of truly dangerous people in our area – rapists, murderers, pedophiles, etc. Yet I did not read that in your one-page summary – to me that statement that you “won’t release truly dangerous people into the neighborhood” is a vague and unreassuring cop-out. I expected to hear you say you have standards, you have consequences, and strict enforcements of them. Second, I would certainly have expected deployment of two armed policemen on patrol 24/7 around the perimeter of the homeless shelter as a source of protection and public safety to pedestrians, people using the park and ride, students, commuters, neighborhood residents, etc. I was shocked that there was nothing mentioned about that either. NOTHING? Are you actually serious!?
4. SANITATION. I know your belief is that by providing bathrooms, laundromats, etc., you are going to decrease rather than increase the sanitation problems posed by the homeless. And in a global sense, you will – for those men who qualify and meet your standards, and who are compos mentis enough to get into the shelter to use the bathroom or whatever. The problem is that very addicted substance abusers don’t make it back until it’s too late, and certainly won’t come back if they know that showing up drunk/high will preclude their admission...they are the ones who are going to defecate in public places, throw their used needles and condoms on the ground, etc. That’s not even counting the men who are their friends, yet don’t qualify for the program, who will hang around waiting for their friends to come out in the morning, thereby effectively *increasing* the number of unsupported homeless in the area who make it unhealthy.
5. SUPPORT. I read that you have a day program, though it didn’t sound mandatory. Why waste even one penny on it if you are not going to take it seriously? This goes back to my introductory remarks about case management vs. actual solutions. It seems known which profiles of homeless individuals are candidates likely to

benefit from services. If you are going to spend money, why not ensure you get a reasonable bang for your buck and only admit candidates likely to benefit from those programs? For those others who “refuse” to cooperate? Give them a choice, just like you do for children who are not stepping up to basic social norms: commitment to psych wards where they can get help for psych issues; substance abuse treatment clinics; or jail with garbage-collecting duties during the day, if they won’t leave. Condoning their ongoing antisocial behavior just doesn’t cut it for me.

My bottom line is this: I do not support the current plan. I will do anything in my power to block its passage in its current form. You can expect vociferous and tenacious resistance from my corner until and unless you seriously address these issues.

Elizabeth Saul

11/25/2016

I cannot make the meetings on Mondays and Tuesdays but I’d like to say -- while hearts are in the right place (they are) but, being realistic and honest about it, the proposed area is the wrong location for this low barrier men’s shelter. Please don’t rob Peter in order to pay Paul and cause an established family area of Bellevue to pay the price of problems down the line.

The only businesses that would go in here would only be Bellevue and King County social services related; not a children’s day care, drycleaner, bakery, deli, or convenience store, all who would find the concentration of homeless a detraction.

Where there are drug users the drug dealers will fight over territory. Also unknown sexual predators would be too conveniently close to schools and family housing. I put myself through college but didn’t have to walk past an area with 100+ homeless men to get to classes.

Who are those being protected, the low barrier homeless shelter or the community? What are you doing to our community where we live?

It seems to me that bunching 100+ men in one location, plus more men in a winter shelter (right next to a forested area for spill over) is not adequately considering the community you have made plans for.

Our community is just trying to take care of our families and children.

Joan Sinclair

11/26/2016

I am writing to support a permanent shelter for men experiencing homelessness in the city of Bellevue.

Shelters are an important part of becoming independent for men who are homeless.

Please give your support to a permanent site in Bellevue.

Colleen M. Pacem

Greetings and thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue

11/27/2016

Having been involved with churches that have participated in congregations for the homeless, I have followed with interest the proposed shelter. I fully understand the NIMBY sentiments expressed by many in the neighborhood, but I can't support their position. The location for the proposed shelter, near transit, medical facilities, and Bellevue College seems ideal, and I think with proper oversight any concerns about increased criminal activity can be mitigated. We have witnessed the sad state of Seattle's attempts to address the issue of homelessness, and it seems that we in Bellevue now have an opportunity to lead the way in providing appropriate care for this segment of our population. Do I honestly

wish that this facility's location was not in the quadrant of Bellevue where I live? Of course, but I also understand and embrace that we are a diverse city, and I don't desire to be living in any more of a protected bubble than I already am. I would encourage the facility to be built in the proposed location, and for there to be outreach efforts to enlist members of the local community to volunteer there.

Kimberley Mumford

11/27/2016

As ones who have worked with homeless men through Congregations for the Homeless programs and Sophia Way homeless women's programs, we strongly encourage your moving forward with this plan to build a permanent facility for men who are temporarily homeless.

1. People who are temporarily homeless need a platform of stability from which to move toward the next steps of independence. If one is confronted daily with the next day's housing and meal considerations, there is no time or energy left for making the necessary moves to gain self sufficiency. From the experience of volunteering with men in CFH, we know how seriously most take their efforts to build a good resume and do practice interviews getting ready for that next step. One can't do that from the street.

2. The Eastgate Way location is an ideal one with access to public transportation, appropriate programs at BCC, and supportive public health services. It can easily become a center of concentrated support services for coordinated and individualized programs to move men into self sufficiency. It represents an absolute minimal residential impact compared to other potential sites.

Thank you for doing this siting evaluation and moving forward with this ideal location.

Jack & Sharon Roos

11/27/2016

Learn from similar situations! Look at this 2 year old article about a shelter in Ballard. Consult and collaborate with these people! What have they done in the past 2 years to bring the EMS calls down? There are a couple of things mentioned in the article -- find out if they worked and be prepared to implement them from the beginning. Don't reinvent the wheel here, learn and get help from people who have done this before.

<http://www.kiro7.com/news/neighborhood-sees-410-increase-ems-calls-after-hom/43401346>

Neighborhood sees 410% increase in EMS calls after homeless housing building opens

by: **Linzi Sheldon** Updated: May 13, 2015 - 9:51 AM

Bellevue Resident (anonymous)

11/27/2016

I want to express my opinion regarding the proposed men's shelter in Eastgate. I think it is a wonderful idea – the location is perfect and Congregations for the Homeless is an exceptional program (they are very good about screening their clients). As a commuter who uses Eastgate Park and Ride, I have no worries about a shelter going in near the Park and Ride.

Carol Murphy

I support the proposed site for a men's shelter near the Eastgate park & Ride. I have done volunteer work for the group and I know that they screen residents well. The location makes sense in that the men will have easy access to mass transit and schooling if need be.

Brian Murphy, HFS, AAS

11/27/2016

The Wilburton Community Association (WCA) has heard from many Wilburton residents concerned about the presence of the interim men's homeless shelter in our neighborhood. Our neighbors are especially concerned about the lack of

neighbor notification of shelter's presence, and have ongoing concerns with personal safety, property crime, loitering, and littering that may result from the shelter's day and night time operations. A recent poll on Nextdoor found that 86% of 126 Wilburton respondents oppose the shelter in the Wilburton neighborhood. While we will endeavor to be good neighbors to the interim shelter, we ask that the City of Bellevue secure a permanent home for the shelter OUTSIDE of the Wilburton neighborhood as soon as possible.

The presence of the low-barrier interim shelter in the Wilburton Commercial Area is inconsistent with the planned development for the area including the new Global Innovation Exchange (GIX), the eastern terminus of the Grand Connection, the Eastside Rail Trail Corridor, new elementary school (E18), two Sound Transit light rail stations, and significant new retail and residential development. The returns from these substantial investments of revenue, planning, and infrastructure can only be fully realized if residents, shoppers, and visitors feel safe and secure in the area. A low-barrier shelter would be better situated in a place where shelter residents can get the social services, medical care, and education assistance they need to transition out of homelessness.

The WCA asks that the Bellevue City Council moves to quickly develop an appropriate long-term site for the Eastside Men's Homeless Shelter outside of Wilburton. Such action would help ensure that the opportunities resulting from investments of time, money, and planning for Wilburton Commercial Area and Grand Connection are not squandered.

Ashley Kaiser

Wilburton Community Association President

With the concurrence of the Wilburton Community Association Board of Directors

11/27/2016

I wanted to attend your meeting showing my favor and support of the men's shelter, but I have a two-month-old baby, so quiet and important meetings aren't exactly "baby friendly". I'm sorry I can't be there.

I would like to express my opinion in favor of the city allowing the space and construction of the men's shelter. The best way I can think of doing that is to share our family's story about our involvement with CFH. Our family (my husband and I and our three kids (elementary age and a baby) "adopted" one of CFH's men's group homes. There are five men living in this home. These men have gone through CFH's program and are all actively working to becoming independent again. We've been getting to know these men for a year now. We stop by and visit, we take brownies and ice cream or dinner and build friendship with them through conversation and time spent. Each one of these men has a different story, some have struggled with addiction, health issues, family tragedies, crushing medical bills, and years of living on the street for different reasons. What I am inspired, encouraged and blown away by each time we visit is all these men have overcome. Their stories are filled with tragedy, broken relationships, failure, sickness and sadness, yet each one of them have been doing the hard work, over a long period of time, to get themselves back on track. CFH has made this possible for these men with their program, amazing staff, case workers, and dedicated volunteers. There are many others living all around us who need this shelter to get back on track like our friends have. CFH does this work well and should be trusted to be the pace-setter on the Eastside to work with the homeless population. Each individual is different with unique needs and stories, and CFH is the right organization to give dignity and aid to these men. I believe though their hard work, and with a new building with space for many services, CFH will put a big dent into ending homelessness on the Eastside.

Rachael Mitchell

11/27/2016

I have thought a great deal about the proposed homeless shelter location. I've also read all the opinions and done some research on my own. After careful consideration, I just signed the petition against it and I want to share my thoughts about the proposed site. I feel very strongly that this is not an appropriate site for two reasons. The facility at the Eastgate Park and Ride, due to the nature of its design, would make females VERY vulnerable. I have two girls who use that facility all summer for their jobs. I would not feel at all comfortable having them park in the structure and come

back late at night from work or for that matter, anytime. During the winter, they use the facility to commute to and from the UW and that also I would deem highly unsafe. Especially during the winter, it is dark for most of the commuting hours. Eastgate Park and Ride is a primary/major transportation hub. There is no way it should be unsafe for women. Why could it ever be a good decision to use a primary transportation hub that many females young and old use to get to work and school and locate this type of shelter in close proximity?

Secondly, this shelter is way too close to Bellevue College. BC, a fairly wooded campus, has plenty of students who are high school age as well as college age. Again, this leaves females extremely vulnerable. That is just wrong. BC is the premier community college in the area. Why could locating this shelter in close proximity by a good idea?

I feel very strongly that, as a community, we must support systems that allow all community members, not just men, to have the opportunity to go to work and contribute to the tax base, go to school, and access transportation all in a safe way. Having two daughters, I am very focused on living in the kind of community that is far-sighted enough to support both genders.

I am a most definite NO to this location. I will also add that if you have not watched this, I think it warrants thought: <http://www.kiro7.com/news/neighborhood-sees-410-increase-ems-calls-after-hom/43401346> and speaks to the issues above.

Jodi Gable

11/27/2016

We support the effort to bring a permanent facility to Bellevue for addressing those who are unsheltered with shelter and pathways out of homelessness.

The ITFH has worked since 2001 on creating the political will to end homelessness in King County. We are co-founders of the Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee, which meets monthly as a gathering of providers, government staff, and faith community members. Our fiscal host, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Bellevue, was a founding partner for Congregations for the Homeless, and still hosts the rotating shelter one month per year. It is also the site of Sophia Place.

The region requires the cities outside Seattle to contribute with brick and mortar responses for those homeless seeking to exit homelessness. Congregations for the Homeless and its many partners are a great asset to the City and to the Eastside. We have heard the complaints from some residents and find them largely built around misinformation, fears, and in a very few cases, moral vagaries. Of greatest concern has been the cobbled efforts for years to provide adequate winter shelter, when those homeless face risk of death.

Bellevue is the Eastside leader and what it decides sets the table for further compassionate responses that in the long term save money for public budgets.

We hope you will advance this effort unanimously.

The Rev. Bill Kirlin-Hackett

Director, **The Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness**

In residence at St. Luke's Lutheran Church

11/27/2016

Thank you for working to build a permanent men's homeless shelter in Bellevue. It's tough work, and I appreciate and support your leadership on this issue.

Over the past few years, I've noticed more homeless people and encampments, and I'm proud that my community wants to do something to help the homeless get back on their feet. I've been following along about the City's proposed Eastgate men's homeless shelter through the Bellevue Reporter, and I attended the City's Oct. 27 workshop and appreciated the presentations and FAQ handouts. I learned a lot from city staff, Congregations for the Homeless (CFH), Bellevue Police, and individual Eastgate-area community members.

Based on Dan Stroh's presentation on the site evaluation process, the Eastgate site seems like a good fit given the access to transit and services. That said, I've heard a lot of residents voice concerns about safety. Based on what I've heard and

read in the FAQs, CFH has successfully operated shelters in neighborhoods, is open to community input, partners with the police, and is continuously improving their operations.

I encourage you to ask CFH work with a community-based advisory group to develop an operations and security plan that addresses resident, commuter and Bellevue College's concerns for the Eastgate homeless shelter.

Thank you for your time and for working to make Eastside homelessness "rare, brief, and one-time when it occurs."

Diann Strom

11/27/2016

I am writing to express my strong support for the Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing Project to be operated by Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing on vacant land at the King County Public Health Department site in Eastgate. I understand the Council will discuss the project at its 11/28/16 Extended Study Session.

The need for this project to serve men residing in Bellevue and the Eastside who become homeless is well-documented. Both Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing are local nonprofits with strong track records and experience. By combining the shelter, day center and supportive housing, individuals served will be given the best chances of addressing the issues that led to their homelessness and moving out of homelessness into permanent housing. The site has the advantages of being adjacent to transit, the public health department, educational opportunities and at a distance from residential areas.

As a member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Medina, I have served dinner and sat with the homeless men that we shelter each July as part of the Congregations for the Homeless Program. I have heard individuals in this program tell their stories of how they became homeless and what they are doing to start working again so they can afford an apartment on their own. They are men who in the past have held jobs, served their country, raised children and who are working to become productive members of our community again.

If we can welcome them into our places of worship, certainly we can welcome them in the proposed Eastside Men's Shelter.

I strongly urge the Council to move forward with this project.

Sincerely,

Ann Schroeder Osterberg

11/27/2016

I am an eastsider, an advocate and a human services employee for the past 25 years. I am also a graduate of the Bellevue Essentials learning cohort. I love my eastside community and the leadership reflected across our eastside cities with various sectors of the community. My life's work focuses on healthy community and positive long term health outcomes which strengthen individual resilience and the resilience of our communities.

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed permanent men's shelter in Bellevue. I am a former member of the advisory group for the Snoqualmie Valley Winter Shelter and a former board secretary for Camp Unity Eastside. I've partnered with Congregations for the Homeless and fully support their efforts to meet the great need for a permanent shelter that provides access to the services and supports people working to move from an unsheltered existence to being housed and connected to a caring community as they build their resources and abilities to be safe and stable.

The King County Executive declared a homelessness state of emergency. Your efforts to help create a safe, permanently sited location helps men who are trying to work establish transportation that is consistent, supports access to services that are located nearby, and insures that men can establish pro social connections to a community. I've worked with unhoused members of the community as they worked to move from a fragile existence toward safe and stable housing. Having shelter that is trusted, safe and staffed with people who can help them navigate the various systems for housing, medical care, employment and transportation increases their ability to achieve their goals. Moving shelter locations destabilizes efforts as people must adjust to new situations and for some can increase anxiety, stress and impacts health over and over.

I'm thankful for the leadership within the City of Bellevue to identify a site for a permanent shelter for men in our community. Congregations for the Homeless has a proven track record of service to people experiencing homelessness. Your support for a permanent shelter increases the resilience of our eastside community as we create greater access to services and safe and stable refuge while people work toward their goals to be healthy and housed.

Paula Matthysse

11/28/2016

I strongly support the Eastgate Homeless Shelters. I live near to Eastgate in Bellevue
Bob Armstead

11/28/2016

I write to provide my testimony for Bellevue's November 28, 2016 Study Session in written form. My name is Karen Studders, I am an independent consultant, providing strategic management and policy advice and advocacy. I often partner with and advise municipalities and faith communities on homelessness, low-income and affordable housing and systemic race and social justice issues. I volunteer on several Eastside committees including the Eastside Human Services Forum Work Group, (EHSF), Eastside Homeless Advisory Council, (EHAC), and the Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council (EISCC) and the All Home King County Policy Committee. I also now serve on the board of directors of the Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council, which served as the fiscal agent for Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) for several years since 1993 until CFH became its own 501(c)3. Numerous Eastside congregations provide rotating shelter space for CFH's year round shelter program and Sound Transit provides space for CFH's winter shelter. I am writing today to express my strong support for the proposed permanent men's shelter in Bellevue. Since 2008 Congregations for the Homeless has successfully offered a safe, warm, low barrier winter shelter for men experiencing homelessness and saved lives. Last winter, over 600 men accessed this resource. In the 2016 One Night Count, there were 245 individuals sleeping outside on the Eastside; this is an 85% increase since 2015. Before the current Sound Transit site was found, the community struggled to locate an adequate space for the winter shelter. Providing consistency and continuity of services through a permanent shelter site will allow more men to be sheltered and allow more opportunity for them to get onto the path to housing.

In addition the permanent shelter site will provide a dedicated space for the CFH Day Center, with ready access to transit and nearby medical services. CFH's Day Center opened in 2013 and due to a property sale lost its congregational home in downtown Bellevue in the spring of 2016. The City of Bellevue is assisting with a temporary site that will allow the Day Center to re-open in the near future. The day center provides needed laundry and showering facilities, a place to rest and eat, along with access to computers and case managers. I support co-locating the Day Center and the Winter Shelter at the proposed site. Homelessness is a regional issue, requiring all of us to share in the responsibility of providing shelter throughout the Eastside and King County.

Thank you Mayor, Councilmembers and staff for your leadership and being part of the regional solution.

Karen Studders, JD

11/28/2016

I live in Bellevue near Eastgate and want to state my strongest support for the men's shelter location. I have worked with the homeless programs here in Bellevue and see the enormous need as well as the enormous good that is done. We have a responsibility to care for our neighbors. Please vote to support the shelter at Eastgate.

Karen Armstead

11/28/2016

Thank you for working with Congregation's for the Homeless and Imagine Housing to provide shelter for the Eastside's homeless men population.

While the end goal for those who are homeless is affordable housing, quick access to shelter and resources can provide hope to a homeless person at a time when it is most needed.

While I think the proposed site is an excellent location, being near health and counseling services, Bellevue College and transportation, I have friends who live in the area who have legitimate questions and concerns. I encourage you to listen carefully and respectfully to those who disagree with this location. I hope to do the same. As a member of Bellevue's faith community, I am committed to finding ways to encourage dialogue and compassion during all stages of this project.

Janis Medley

This is to voice my strong support for the siting and construction of the homeless men's shelter near the Eastgate Park and Ride location.

Personally I have been involved in the support and leadership of Congregations for the Homeless for many years both financially and on the Board of Directors.

CFH has a superior record in helping men get back into housing and I know you all know that. CFH will be an excellent operator of the facility with a greater capacity to serve the men

The site has many advantages: public property, transportation and availability of many services—there is none better.

My church, First Congregational of Bellevue, opened the Drop in Shelter several years ago on the corner of NE 8th and 108th with no problems at all in the neighborhood and was located in the same building as the YMCA day care for little children.

CFH did an excellent job in running that facility. They will do the same with larger facility.

I ask for your unanimous support following many years of Bellevue's support for the homeless in our community.

James G. Young

I am a resident of Wilburton area. My family is highly concern the homeless shelter in our neighborhood area. It should be not a permanent place here. Please move to other place. The crime rate is increaing in our neighborhood.

Juoling

11/28/2016

As you hold your study session this evening regarding the proposed permanent men's shelter, please consider the attached comments from members of the Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee (EHAC). EHAC is a convening group of human services providers, funders, and faith communities who are dedicated to meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness on the eastside. We believe that all of our neighbors should be safely and affordably housed, but in the absence of that, they should be safely sheltered with access to the services they need to exit homelessness. To that end, we are writing to express our strong support for the proposed permanent men's shelter in Bellevue. Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding our comments.

Kelly Rider

Director, Government Relations & Policy, Housing Development Consortium Seattle/King County

November 28, 2016

Bellevue City Council 450 110th Avenue NE Bellevue, WA 98004

Re: Siting of Permanent Men's Shelter

Dear Councilmembers,

As participants in the Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee (EHAC), we are writing to express our strong support for the proposed permanent men's shelter in Bellevue.

EHAC is a convening group of human services providers, funders, and faith communities who are dedicated to meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness on the eastside. We believe that all of our neighbors should be safely and affordably housed, but in the absence of that, they should be safely sheltered with access to the services they need to exit homelessness.

Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) has provided such shelter and service connections, through a rotating shelter, to men experiencing homelessness since 1993, meeting a growing community need. In addition to the rotating shelter, CFH has operated a winter shelter since 2008. This winter shelter has provided a critical place of safety and support for those living outside during the cold winter months.

As community leaders in Bellevue, you know that rising homelessness on the eastside cannot be ignored. The 2016 One Night Count showed an 85% increase from 2015 in eastsiders sleeping outside- 245 people in all. More than 1,200 eastsiders relied on our local shelters in 2015, about half of them men who depended on CFH for a safe, warm, and dry place to rest and access resources.

We believe the permanent shelter will help the entire community be safer by bringing people inside. In particular, a permanent place for the CFH winter shelter solves the significant problem of finding a new site every few years. The proposed site is close to vital medical and transportation services that help men exit homelessness, and would complement the permanent youth shelter in Redmond and potential women's and children's shelter in Kirkland.

We applaud the City of Bellevue's leadership in exploring options for siting a permanent men's shelter, and we urge you to adopt the proposal.

Sincerely,

Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee (EHAC) participants

Kelly Rider Director, Government Relations & Policy Housing Development Consortium Seattle-King County

Sibyl Glasby

Director of Housing Development

Imagine Housing

Meghan Altimore Vice President, Community Services Hopelink

Mark Putnam, on behalf of All Home King County Director All Home King County

Susan Gemmel Director King County 2-1-1

The Rev. Bill Kirlin-Hackett Director Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness

Noel Rees Bellevue Resident

Angela Murray Executive Director The Sophia Way

Terry Pottmeyer President & CEO Friends of Youth

Mayor John Marchione City of Redmond

Peter A Schnebele Chair, Housing and Homelessness Team Holy Spirit Lutheran

Michael Ramos Executive Director Church Council of Greater Seattle

Alaric Bien Bellevue Resident

11/28/2016

Please vote YES to shelter and housing for people in Bellevue! Opening 100 shelter beds, a service center, and creating 50 units of permanent housing will help people who are homeless in Bellevue and Eastside communities.

Cecilia Linsley

11/28/2016

Thank you for working to create more shelter, housing, and services for people who are homeless in Bellevue. I support local government responding to homelessness with real answers.

We all know that solutions include better access to health care, including treatment options; harm reduction services; and investments in community health and safety. People who are homeless need housing. When housing is not available, people need shelter, stability, and respect. Providing 100 emergency beds, a day center and cafeteria, services and 50 units of permanent affordable housing is an effective way to reduce homelessness in Bellevue and Eastside Communities.

The proposed location at the Eastgate Park and Ride is the right choice as it provides a location near transportation, public health and human services, an education center (Bellevue Community College) and easy access to local amenities such as grocery stores and other services so needed by those with low-incomes.

Suzanne Koval

11/28/2016

Thank you for taking a deeper look into the proposed Eastgate shelter. Below are questions that I hope to have answered (*put in FAQ response Document*). I am opposed to this proposed site for many of the reasons set forth by others that I will not repeat here for brevity. I request that slow things down and try to come up with a better plan to address the homeless issue at a site that is a better fit for these men, that will have a smaller impact on the surrounding community, that is consistent with the Eastgate plan, that has reasonable restrictions on client behavior, and that isn't so expensive for tax payers. Thanks in advance for your careful and thoughtful consideration.

Matt Williams

11/28/2016

I would be very pleased to see a permanent shelter for the homeless. I'm especially happy that they are going to be able to provide medical assistance. I think that through CFH we have learned that we can get the homeless to a place where they can get into a permanent home of their own. Some of the men needed only a little help to get there. This is what a caring community should be about. Phyllis Jones

Phyllis Jones

11/28/2016

Tonight you'll probably hear many contrary views and concerns. Sometimes supporters don't weigh in with the positive aspects of such noble, important undertakings.

Sending all of you our strongly supportive praise for your successful deliberations to open a men's shelter on Eastgate's proposed location. Despite frustrations of residents for locating such facilities nearby, the benefits to Bellevue include better safety, providing services plus other urgently needed help to our homeless population and creating future options for a productive, happier future life.

Where are these unfortunate homeless supposed to go? Downtown Bellevue is experiencing a far greater influx of Homeless traveling here from Seattle and UW district via bus routes. Bellevue is seen as a safer place for many vulnerable young people. It appears to be managed safely up to this point, despite severe lack of badly needed shelter facilities. Delay of the proposed project would be a huge mistake.

A suggestion to help alleviate concerns about possible problems at nearby parking lots, businesses or neighbors and communities is to **offer up increased police patrolling and similar protective measures** implemented near other homeless facilities across the United States.

Some facts, sent earlier to Mike Huentelman:

Downtown Bellevue Library is a Seattle area hub for the Homeless population as the 550 Metro Express Bus from Seattle stops there. Nearby park grounds (McCormick Park) also serves as a hub for homeless people, both women and men.

Bellevue bicycle patrols make regular stops and routinely cruise the area to reduce any potential risks to residents or businesses. This appears to be an efficient, reasonably safe and monitoring approach nearby local school bus stops, new KidsQuest Museum and Ashwood Park children's athletic programs within 100 feet of the Downtown library. Of course the Transit Center is only two blocks away; and hundreds of businesses, Microsoft, major banks, neighborhood homes, senior residence centers and apartment towers within a **quarter-mile radius**, including four large Hotels, Bellevue Square Mall and City Hall.

Right now, today, Bellevue's existing dire lack of shelter facilities and homeless services already effects all of us. Sites with professional service centers will be far more effective, efficient and safer for all concerned.

At the UW, large tent encampments were recently located across the street from UW classrooms and student residential apartments. UW's large homeless population now lives and sleeps on the streets, sidewalks, entryways outside businesses, UW bookstore and where UW students live and shop, **only one block from Campus**. Many homeless ride the 271 Metro bus route, coming to Bellevue each day. Far better services are needed here since this population is growing larger, not diminishing. These people need our help now, not later.

Dwight and Mary Schrag

11/28/2016

My suggestion to help alleviate concerns about possible problems at nearby parking lots, businesses or neighbors and communities is to offer up increased police patrolling and similar protective measures implemented near other homeless facilities across the United States.

Some facts:

The Downtown Bellevue Library is a Seattle area hub for the Homeless population since the 550 Express Bus from Seattle stops there. Nearby park grounds (McCormick) also serves as a hub for homeless people, both women and men. Bicycle patrols make regular stops and routinely cruise the area to reduce any potential risks to residents or businesses. This seems to be an efficient, safe and effective monitoring approach with school bus routes and Children's Museum and Ashwood Park children's athletic programs within 100 feet of the Downtown library. Of course the Transit Center is only two blocks away and hundreds of businesses, major banks, neighborhood homes, senior residence centers and apartment towers within a quarter-mile radius, including four large Hotels, Bellevue Mall and City Hall.

The existing dire situation effects all of us and professional service centers will be far more effective and safe for Bellevue. At the UW, there have been large tent encampments right across the street from UW classrooms and residential apartment buildings. Also, a very heavy homeless population now lives and sleeps on the streets, sidewalks, entryways outside businesses, UW bookstore and where UW students live and shop, only one block from Campus. Far better services are needed since the population is growing larger, not diminishing.

Dwight Schrag

4609 Somerset Dr SE, Bellevue, WA 98006
November 28, 2016

Bellevue City Council
450 110th Ave. NE
P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for working with Congregation's for the Homeless and Imagine Housing to provide shelter for the Eastside's homeless men population.

While the end goal for those who are homeless is affordable housing, quick access to shelter and resources can provide hope to a homeless person at a time when it is most needed.

While I think the proposed site is an excellent location, being near health and counseling services, Bellevue College and transportation, I have friends who live in the area who have legitimate questions and concerns. I encourage you to listen carefully and respectfully to those who disagree with this location. I hope to do the same. As a member of Bellevue's faith community, I am committed to finding ways to encourage dialogue and compassion during all stages of this project.

Janis Medley



November 28, 2016
Bellevue City Council

To: City Council Members

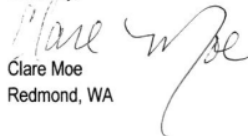
As an Eastside community member, and member of the Board of Directors of Congregations for the Homeless (CFH), former Board President and board member of Imagine Housing, and member of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church (East of the proposed location), I strongly support the City of Bellevue's efforts to work with CFH and Imagine to site the new shelter at the proposed location near the Public Health building in Eastgate.

This site is ideal due to its co-location with public health services, public mass transit, and education opportunities. CFH has a proven record for serving men experiencing homelessness and is working diligently to provide a high level of service and safety for both the men and the surrounding community. Imagine Housing has an extensive portfolio of affordable housing with support services and maintains high quality communities located across the Eastside.

Without shelter, many people will choose to live unsheltered in legal and illegal encampments where they will not receive the care and tools necessary to reclaim their lives. Most people who are experiencing homelessness do not have the support network needed to move back into mainstream society. With this new shelter, men will receive the support and services needed to become productive, able citizens.

Please approve this site and help to begin a positive and humane approach to people experiencing homelessness.

Sincerely,


Clare Moe
Redmond, WA

November 28, 2016

Bellevue City Council

I am writing in support of the Permanent Shelter for Men at the Eastgate site. There are many men experiencing homelessness on the Eastside. The first step for men to move out of homelessness is to have a safe place to sleep, food and to receive the services they need.

I have worked with CFH for many years and have seen the difference in men's lives to have Case Management and the needed services available to them. The respect and caring of the CFH staff has made a difference in so many men's lives to help them move to a stable life. Not only are the men benefited but also the many volunteers who donate their time energy and resources.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nadine Barber".

City Council
City of Bellevue

Re: Homeless Shelter at Eastgate/Congregations for the Homeless

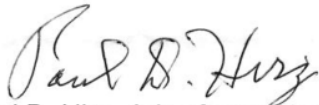
The objective for homeless men on the Eastside is not just housing; it is efficiently solving their needs and getting them back to independence.

Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) does this better than anyone else as they assess their issues, connect them with the best resources and counsel them as individuals.

As a long time small business counselor, I have also done jobs counseling for the homeless men. I am not just a pointer, I prepare them and go all the way to the door with them. It is matter of trust and a personal relationship. And it works.

We need to support them with a facility in a safe central location close to transportation. They do not need to be pushed to the edge of the city.

You will never have a consensus, so let's make this an objective business-like decision.



Paul D. Hirz, Jobs Counselor
191 109th Ave NE, Apt 1507
Bellevue, WA 98004

November 28, 2016

Bellevue City Council
450 110th Avenue NE
Bellevue, WA 98004

Re: Siting of Permanent Men's Shelter

Dear Councilmembers,

The Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee (EHAC) would like to express our strong support for the proposed permanent men's shelter in Bellevue. EHAC is a convening group of human services providers, funders, and faith communities who are dedicated to meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness on the eastside.

We believe that all of our neighbors should be safely and affordably housed, but in the absence of that, they should be safely sheltered with access to the services they need to exit homelessness. Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) has provided such shelter and service connections to men experiencing homelessness since 2008, meeting a growing community need.

As community leaders in Bellevue, you know that rising homelessness on the eastside cannot be ignored. The 2016 One Night Count showed an 85% increase from 2015 in eastsiders sleeping outside- 245 people in all. More than 1,200 eastsiders relied on our local shelters in 2015, about half of them men who depended on CFH for a safe, warm, and dry place to rest and access resources. Though CFH currently provides these services at rotating sites, we know that the stability of a permanent location would allow more resources to be focused directly on clients instead of relocating multiple times each year.

We believe the permanent shelter will help the entire community be safer by bringing people inside. The site is close to vital medical and transportation services that help men exit homelessness, and would complement the permanent youth shelter in Redmond and potential women's and children's shelter in Kirkland.

We applaud the City of Bellevue's leadership in exploring options for siting a permanent men's shelter and we urge you to adopt the proposal.

Sincerely,

David Baumgardner
102 128th Ave NE (Wilburton)
Bellevue, WA 98005

*I am a member of the Board
Wilburton Community Association
and Secretary - East Shore Unitarian - Board of Trustees*

Bellevue City Council

Monday, Nov. 28, 2016

Wilburton Commercial Area and The CAC

Bellevue City council, Mayor Stokes, I am Daniel Renn. I live at 603 129th Place N E in Bellevue WA. I am a member of the Wilburton Commercial Area, Citizen Advisory Committee, CAC. This CAC plans to meet once a month for the next 12 to 13 months. The goal is to come up with a plan or recommendations to make Wilburton Commercial Area a Desirable Thriving Livable pedestrian oriented community. This will include Apartments and Condominiums for families, with restaurants and entertainment. This will all center around the Eastside Rail Corridor Trail and the Bellevue Grand Connection walking path to down town Bellevue. What this Area does not need is a Permanente Homeless Shelter or High voltage power lines from Energize East Side.

I hope that The City Council will in the next several weeks find a way to keep the power lines in the 136 th Ave Utilities Corridor where they belong. This may take some work with the East Bellevue Community Council. I also ask that you be sure that the Temporary Homeless Shelter in Wilburton remains only Temporary. This is not the place to have a permanent Shelter that would interfere with any Development plans that the CAC may consider.

Daniel Renn

(425) 455-9990

DAN_SABINA@YAHOO.COM

November 28, 2016

Bellevue City Council
450 110th Avenue NE
Bellevue, WA 98004

Re: Siting of Permanent Men's Shelter

Dear Councilmembers,

The Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee (EHAC) would like to express our strong support for the proposed permanent men's shelter in Bellevue. EHAC is a convening group of human services providers, funders, and faith communities who are dedicated to meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness on the eastside.

We believe that all of our neighbors should be safely and affordably housed, but in the absence of that, they should be safely sheltered with access to the services they need to exit homelessness. Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) has provided such shelter and service connections to men experiencing homelessness since 2008, meeting a growing community need.

As community leaders in Bellevue, you know that rising homelessness on the eastside cannot be ignored. The 2016 One Night Count showed an 85% increase from 2015 in eastsiders sleeping outside- 245 people in all. More than 1,200 eastsiders relied on our local shelters in 2015, about half of them men who depended on CFH for a safe, warm, and dry place to rest and access resources. Though CFH currently provides these services at rotating sites, we know that the stability of a permanent location would allow more resources to be focused directly on clients instead of relocating multiple times each year.

We believe the permanent shelter will help the entire community be safer by bringing people inside. The site is close to vital medical and transportation services that help men exit homelessness, and would complement the permanent youth shelter in Redmond and potential women's and children's shelter in Kirkland.

We applaud the City of Bellevue's leadership in exploring options for siting a permanent men's shelter and we urge you to adopt the proposal.

Sincerely,

Keith Baumgart (Wilburton)
102 128th Ave NE
Bellevue, WA 98005

Speaker 3

WCA - interim men's homeless shelter

My name is Marcia Edwards and I represent the Wilburton Community Association (WCA).

We have heard from many Wilburton residents **concerned about the presence of the interim men's homeless shelter in our neighborhood.**

Our neighbors are especially concerned about:

1. the lack of neighbor notification of shelter's presence, and
2. have ongoing concerns with personal safety, property crime, loitering, and littering that may result from the shelter's day and night time operations.

A recent poll on Nextdoor found that **86% of 126 Wilburton respondents oppose** the shelter in the Wilburton neighborhood.

While we will endeavor to be good neighbors to the interim shelter, **we ask that the City of Bellevue secure a permanent home for the shelter OUTSIDE of the Wilburton neighborhood as soon as possible.**

1. The presence of the low-barrier interim shelter in the Wilburton Commercial Area is inconsistent with the planned development for the area including:
 - a. the new Global Innovation Exchange (GIX),
 - b. the eastern terminus of the Grand Connection,
 - c. the Eastside Rail Trail Corridor,
 - d. new elementary school (E18),
 - e. two Sound Transit light rail stations, and
 - f. significant new retail and residential development.
2. The returns from these substantial investments of revenue, planning, and infrastructure can only be fully realized if residents, shoppers, and visitors feel safe and secure in the area.
3. A low-barrier shelter would be better situated in a place where shelter residents can get the social services, medical care, and education assistance they need to transition out of homelessness.

The WCA asks that the Bellevue City Council moves to quickly develop an appropriate long term site for the Eastside Men's Homeless Shelter outside of Wilburton.

Such action would help ensure that the opportunities resulting from investments of time, money, and planning for Wilburton Commercial Area and Grand Connection are not squandered.

Ashley Kaiser
Wilburton Community Association President

With the concurrence of the WCA Board of Directors

*** END OF STATEMENT ****

Speaker 8

LARA LITOU

National Alliance to End Homelessness

http://b.3cdn.net/naeh/bb34a7e4cd84ee985c_3vm6r7cjh.pdf The National Alliance to End Homelessness, a leader in homelessness service and research, estimates a 17% decrease in total homelessness from 2005 to 2012. As a refresher: this covers a period when unemployment doubled (2007-2010) and foreclosure proceedings quadrupled (2005-2009)

http://b.3cdn.net/naeh/458837a0513453bec1_56m6zdn13.pdf This has some wonderful graphs of homelessness trends.

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/page/-/files/2016%20State%20Of%20Homelessness.pdf> The most recent statistics which show the decrease in homelessness in the US, but a significant increase in Washington.

<http://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-housing> Easily readable and links showing the percentage of chronic homeless with mental health issues and drug addiction. 30-75% serious mental health issues (depending on if Veterans) and about 2/3 substance abuse regardless of subpopulation.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3713619/> Shows that primary cause of death among homeless is overdose. This is consistent across the country.

<http://www.kiro7.com/news/where-are-seattles-most-dangerous-streets/246026271> This is the dangerous areas of Seattle...a direct bus ride ride. Notice these all are associated with transit. Look at the Police Reports. Where there is a need for drugs, there will be drug dealers right behind. And transit makes it easy. The areas that are safer are areas without a drug need and without easy public transportation.

<http://www.kiro7.com/news/neighborhood-sees-410-increase-ems-calls-after-hom/43401346> Increase crime near house for the chronically homeless. We just need to be aware.

<http://www.ecs-sf.org/programs/navcenter.html> The Navigation Center in San Francisco that King County and Mayor Murray refer to. Notice that this is Supportive Permanent Housing transitioning into long-term permanent housing. Different than what is being discussed.

https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/BkgrdPap_ChronicHomelessness.pdf Chronic homeless statistics.

I am in support of building the Men's shelter in the Eastgate area. From the reading that I have done, it seems to be the perfect area. A location that will afford safety for the men, and for the community.

Being close to King County Health will be a big plus in helping many of the men.

Being close to transit will also be a big plus to the men that can work but have no other means than a bus to get them to their jobs.

I have volunteered for many years helping the men here on the Eastside and I have found out that many of them just need a helping hand up and they can then return to independent living.

Not having a warm, safe place to sleep is a constant worry for them. Having a place where they can receive something to eat removes another constant worry for them. Being able to have a shower and do laundry makes them able to start looking for a job.

This facility is so needed here on the Eastside. Thank you for working with the many groups to make this happen.

These men are here now, let's build a facility that they can receive the hands up that will help them.

This is not something new for the Eastside, it has been running for the many years, it has just not been at a permanent site. Yes, there has been concerns in the past years but they are all handled with great success.

Sterling R Bentzen

11/29/2016

I and nearly everyone I know opposes the Men's Shelter.

Let me pose a challenge: set a Mission Statement, a set of metrics to evaluate progress towards the Mission Statement, and regular reviews to evaluate progress and make changes where appropriate.

I believe your general intent is to reduce homelessness. A worthy goal. Here are some of my thoughts:

I've heard more than one report that found over 60% of homeless people are there by choice and refuse help to get out of their situation. My anecdotal experience backs this. So stop the handouts and you've reduced the homeless by half. I do not want to be supporting folks that don't want to support themselves nor do I believe enabling their behavior is wise. The remaining folks are most likely either have mental issues or are truly down on their luck and trying to work their way out. Any shelter is not the best way to help them. These folks need real help. And lastly, this real help doesn't need to cost us taxpayers much if anything. Real help can easily be configured in such a way that it supports itself fiscally. This would be a super win-win for all involved.

Larry E James

11/29/2016

I am a resident of the Monthaven neighborhood, and I would like to express support for the homeless shelter being proposed near the Eastgate P&R.

Erika Rice Scherpelz

11/29/2016

My name is Ling Zhuang and I live at Wilburton community for 10 years. I hold a master's degree in urban planning and spatial analysis. And I have been a mapping and data professional for 16 years, working with many federal, state, and local government agencies.

Recently there is a lot going on in questioning low barriers entry policy on homeless shelter. Low barriers entry means NO ID is checked, anyone, including criminals, sex offenders, and drug dealers, is allowed to get in without being noticed. The supporters refer it as the best practice for homeless shelter as claimed by United Way and 100k Homes Campaign. However, they probably don't realize how COSTLY it is to run a SUCCESSFUL low barriers entry homeless shelter.

Here is an example of cost: the San Francisco Navigation Center, which is regarded as the successful example by CFH's fund provider United Way. The Navigation Center spent \$1.7 million, not including the significant cost of city staff support, on 212 unique clients with 132 clients (62%) exit in finding stable housing and 17% still left without a connection after six months in 2015.

http://ecs-sf.org/documents/NavCenter_FirstSixMonths_Assessment.pdf

From CFH's annual report, we can find that the total budget of CFH in 2015 was \$1.7 million (same as SF Navigation Center) but served 627 unique men at winter shelter with low barriers entry policy (compared with 212 clients at SF Navigation Center) and 145 unique men at year-round shelter that checks ID. Adjusting the living cost between San Francisco and Bellevue, I still cannot see how it would have worked out successfully in reducing homelessness at Bellevue with low barriers entry policy. What I see is a surge of homeless coming to Bellevue. In 2014, CFH served 475 men at winter shelter. If you compare the data of 2015 with that of 2014, it's $(627-475)/475=32\%$ increase for the low barriers entry men's shelter.

<http://www.cfhomeless.org/our-2014-annual-report/>

This increase is not surprising, considering how many homeless men at Seattle and how attractive low barriers entry policy it is that NO ID is checked in getting the services. Actually, CFH already indicated that 10%+ were from somewhere

else other than Eastside. Think about where is somewhere else... And it's a self-reporting system. You can claim yourself as Bellevue/eastside resident but actually from somewhere else and CFH staff won't know.

In a word, opposition to low barriers entry is not a NIMBY whining, but a real concern from Bellevue citizens. With the budget that CFH has, low barriers entry policy does not solve the homelessness problem at Eastside, but attracts more and more homeless outside Eastside to Bellevue. We need to be realistic of what Bellevue can handle with limited police resources and solve homelessness problem step by step. Even it means CFH might lose some funding as some fund providers ask for low barriers entry as requirement, I wish the city council and city staff can consider to change the policy and require current interim homeless shelter at Wilburton and future Eastgate shelter to check ID, i.e., make it a medium barriers entry shelter. We have seen how the homeless problem grew at Seattle or Portland in past ten years, we know that the homeless problem is not going away with the magic bullet of low barriers entry. Let's focus on what can be done with limited budget and resources. Only when it is well managed, the homeless problem will get relieved. Thank you very much for your listening and consideration!

Ling Zhuang

11/30/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate and individually as a long-term resident of the Eastside, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue. I appreciate all the work that the Bellevue City Council and its staff have put into this planned shelter. I believe you have created a masterful plan that relies on strong experienced non-profits and collaboration of other Eastside cities in partnership with King County. It is an ideal partnership, this is an immediate need and this is the best possible site for this shelter.. I attended the Bellevue City Council meeting last night on Monday, November 28th, 2016 ,and had prepared testimony. I did not have an opportunity to speak because of the limitations of time and number of people that were called to give testimony.

I have attached the comments I prepared for the Bellevue City Council Meeting to add to the record of this project along with this e-mail. Please add these documents in support of the decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the Eastgate neighborhood of the City of Bellevue.

I have personally been involved in feeding the homeless through the social action outreach programs of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, and this could not be a more important issue.

Catherine Lanham

11/30/2016

I am in full support of your work to site a new, permanent shelter near the Eastgate Park & Ride lot. I understand that many of the men have run into some terrible luck and/or have made some poor decisions to end up in their situation. All of our lives are on somewhat of a tight rope of luck and we could falter into a situation similar to what these men experience. It is our responsibility to provide a service like CFH to help these men find a safe place to sleep, shower, and clean their clothes so that they can find work and figure a way out of homelessness.

The location of the shelter is perfect for several reasons:

1. Close proximity to regional transit - these men work and they need to save every penny to be able to eventually get into an apartment. Not owning a vehicle is key to saving money, but it requires heavy dependence on transit. This location is perfect because they can get to most locations within King County for employment, legal services, and county services.
2. Close to Bellevue College. Some of these men need to cross-train to learn a new career or gain education to enter the workforce at a higher pay rate so they can afford housing. Being adjacent to the college is perfect for these men. What about the sex offenders, addicts, and mentally ill? They are all around us all the time in every situation. Homeless people are not sex offender, addicts, and mentally ill. CFH and the Bellevue police department are working together to be sure the local area is as safe as possible. I think a local education program would be valuable to help people understand that these men are not out to hurt people. They need help and are appreciative.

3. Close to retail centers and services. This helps the men feel stable. The stability is what they need to feel grounded in their life and work toward a plan to be self-supportive. It is important for people to understand that the shelter is intended as a temporary situation for each person who stays. Everyone of the men are looking for a way out of the shelter and into an apartment. These men are homeless and the current program has their shelter moving to a new location each month. This complicates their travel to work, to retail, to day shelter, and to their services. Having a permanent shelter near transit, retail, and education is a perfect situation.

4. There is a strong local support group from CFH, local churches, and local businesses will continue to volunteer to help the men and provide them with companionship as they work their way into a new start.

I understand some of the fear people feel because I had the same feeling before I started volunteering with the men. They are real people. They are human beings who need help getting through a tough spot in their lives. I support your decision to investigate and hopefully build a permanent shelter for men experiencing homelessness at the Eastgate Public Health site.

Michael Horntvedt

11/30/2016

As a member of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, a neighbor in Eastgate, I support the Bellevue City Council's decision to site a permanent homeless shelter in the City of Bellevue and appreciate the work Congregations for the Homeless is doing to help men move out of homelessness. Thanks you for standing in support of those most in need in our community."

Nathan S. Rosenbaum

11/30/2016

In addition to Q&A, I hope the city can form a committee to do an independent study on low barriers entry homeless shelter and see if it works for Bellevue in the long run. On the contrary to some people's belief, a successful low barriers entry shelter is much more costly than medium barriers entry shelter because lots of cost have to incur on case management. Based on the cost of SF Navigation Center pilot project for low barriers entry shelter, we can estimate that if we want CFH to have similar success rate like SF Navigation Center (62% success rate in moving to permanent housing), we need to provide CFH at least \$5 millions annually and that amount will grow with the high growth rate of homeless we are experiencing now at Bellevue (according to CFH annual report, 32% increase from 2014 to 2015 for the number of men served at Eastside winter shelter). I have not received any performance report from CFH regarding low barriers entry shelter. Based on their annual report, I estimate the success rate probably is around 10% or less.

Ling Zhuang

11/30/2016

Forcing taxpayers to fund other peoples responsibility is un-American. No taxpayer money should be expended for this nonsense.

Renay Bennett

11/30/2016

I am writing to let you all know my very strong support for the Imagine Housing/Congregations for the Homeless project in Eastgate. I understand the project is facing a lot of contest from the community - a "Not in My Backyard" mentality so to speak.

We are all very aware of the problem of homelessness in King County. I formerly provided case management and mental health outreach to homeless individuals in Bellevue and Kirkland, and am uniquely aware of how this issue has spilled over into the Eastside. I am also a social worker in an emergency room, and can speak firsthand how often we discharge people to the streets due to there being no available shelter/nowhere for them to go.

In my experience, the majority of homeless people I worked with in East King were there because they were from East King and/or terrified of Seattle and how dangerous it is to be homeless there. I think residents of Bellevue may be surprised to know how much of the homeless population there is from their own community.

If the residents of Bellevue do not like seeing homeless people on the street, the answer is pretty simple - provide them housing so they won't be homeless anymore. Or, provide them a place where they can go to feel safe and work on getting their lives back together. Please support the Imagine Housing/CFH homeless project in Eastgate. It is the right thing to do for the community.

Erin Pierson

11/30/2016

Please vote YES to shelter and housing for people in Bellevue! Opening 100 shelter beds, a service center, and creating 50 units of permanent housing will help people who are homeless in Bellevue and Eastside communities.

Blythe A. Horman

12/1/2016

I am a resident of South Bellevue and I use the Eastside Transit Center on a regular basis for bus travel. I am so happy to see the city stepping up in bigger ways to address the issue of homelessness. I support this location for a men's shelter because of its proximity to the transit center and to the public health clinic.

I have been a member of Saint Margaret's Episcopal Church in Factoria for many years. We have had a long relationship with Congregations for the Homeless (CfH) as part of the traveling shelter program. My husband and I volunteered for many years as the congregations liaison and volunteer coordinators between St. M's and CfH during their annual visit. We found the CfH staff to be knowledgeable, reliable, and conscientious. They are a highly skilled and reliable organization with years of "boots-on-the-ground" experience working with homeless men. I can't imagine a better organization to develop and run this shelter with the city.

I am so proud of my city for taking this step.

Anne Figge

12/1/2016

Just wanted to say that I am wholeheartedly in favor of the Mens' homeless shelter proposed for Eastgate PR area. I think it is a perfect area for the men to get transportation to and from work, or other needs, and I am open as a S Bellevue area resident to this location.

I see a need and a great place to fill it.

My support in favor!

Halina Bojarski

12/1/2016

My review of the Bellevue City Council 11/28/16 meeting video dealing with the Eastside Men's Shelter prompted the following comments. While the shelter location near the Bellevue College would seem to be an obvious concern, the location near the Eastgate T/C is also a concern. First it would provide an ideal location for those selling drugs to have access to potentially large numbers of shelter residents desiring the drugs. Second, it would also provide shelter residents with an ideal location to pan handle, potentially "aggressively," those waiting at the T/C to access buses. Even more important is the question as to the ability of the shelter to reduce the area's homelessness. The Seattle Times 12/01/16 article headlined, "Next homeless count could climb" suggests at least part of the increase could be attributed to different methods of counting. However, it also details that the January 2016 count was 15% higher than 2015's homelessness. The "potential increase" in the 2017 homeless count may be due to "more homeless" than "better counting".

The fact the numbers of homeless in the area continue to increase despite the millions spent addressing the issue suggests the more "benefits" you provide to the homeless, the more you attract to the area. Those promoting the Eastgate shelter need to explain how they intend to keep it from being a magnet attracting even more homeless to Bellevue.

Bill Hirt

12/1/2016

I read with interest the public commentary on the proposed men's shelter in the Eastside neighborhood of which I am a resident...in a single family dwelling about a five-minute walk from the proposed site. I have thought about it carefully. Most of the "in favor" comments seem to come from people who do not live within comfortable walking distance of the proposed shelter. They attend Temple across the freeway a couple of miles away, or live in Medina, for example. I know some of these folk personally. However, if you do not live near the site, your approval counts less. Furthermore, the proposal's initial statement about the site's suitability, that it is not near single family dwellings, is so inaccurate as to be insulting. Did no one from CFH or the various government groups actually walk the area and note the close proximity of single-family homes, and paths to the park and ride and Bellevue College? Many young people from Sammamish High School attend Running Start at Bellevue College, and classes at the college run late into the evening. So why was a men's day shelter proposed in this residential area, rather than women's or family housing? I've personally observed aggressive behavior by homeless men towards women neighbors on the bus from Seattle to Eastgate. I wouldn't like to see this increase (what does "additional steps for sex offenders" even mean?). As a person whose home was once broken into (when I lived elsewhere), I can say that the remark about an "expected increase in property crimes" does not fairly answer the concern. Mitigation measures are much too vague, and the entire presentation seems to assume this will go forward, regardless of community sentiment.

I understand from notes and feedback from the most recent meeting that this is a "come as you are" shelter. Actually, this is not a "come as you are" neighborhood. We expect neighborly things of each other in my neighborhood, whether we rent or own our homes, and we hold each other accountable. Church-going folk learn that our faith requires faith and works - substantially more than "come as you are." Many of my neighbors write about the works they've contributed to working to help homeless folk. So are these new neighbors to offer us so much less? We know nothing of their backgrounds, and it seems little is asked of them. Many of us who live here have invested our life savings in our homes. These men would "drop in..." and then what? What would they offer our neighborhood? I would actually be more reassured if what was offered was permanent, supportive housing to our homeless neighbors - particularly for families and women. If these proposed new neighbors live here - if it were their home, and they had roots here, wouldn't they more likely invest in the neighborhood than they would for a "drop in center?" I understand this has been borne out by permanent housing for homeless folk elsewhere in Seattle. The project should fit the neighborhood, and this one, as proposed, does not.

Valerie Wang,

12/2/2106

It was a privilege sharing the Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving with a couple of you and deeply appreciated your attendance and your words. I'm the Senior Pastor at Aldersgate United Methodist on Newport Way and we were the group cooking and serving that evening. It's one of the high points of our year. Again, thanks for being there. As a pastor at a central church on the south end of Bellevue, I believe we see more homeless than most. We've continually sought to give them help, comfort, food, and help. It is part of what we do. You heard from Jack Morrison at your last meeting. Jack is a part of our Core Leadership Team made up of mostly Bellevue citizens. I'm one of those. I live at 14904 SE 49th Street. I've now served this church for five and a half years. In that time this church has given well over \$100,000 to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, a fund whose sole purpose is to help those in need. What I want to share is that we never have enough to fund the needs that surround us. The needs are great and they are growing. I don't have an official count but estimate that 4/5ths of those we serve are men. We serve families some of whom continue to live in their cars. We serve others who have a motor home or some kind of shelter. We serve those coming off the street. Again, we've seen first hand the challenges of living in this region when one is homeless. And now the weather is turning colder. I cannot begin to state how strongly I support the creation of this men's shelter. Our entire leadership team unanimously support it. A huge percentage of our church population also support it, some of whom are

living in the area where it is proposed to be built. I hope you understand how deeply I and my congregation support this proposal.

On another note, I worked alongside Bobby Shriver in Santa Monica, CA and with others as we sought to appropriately deal with the 19,000 homeless we found in that city of 92,000. The church I was serving provided transitional housing. The task force on which I served had A-list stars; city, county and state officials, and a whole lot of other folks seeking to do the right thing in one of the wealthiest communities in the country. What we found was how few understood the stories and what created the multiple aspects of homelessness. The city provided two parks with patrols that allowed the homeless to sleep during the day in safety. Those same parks were visited by children and families. They knew it was safe. Our youth group at Santa Monica First United Methodist served bag lunches about once a month. They were never in danger but their lives were certainly influenced by what they saw and the relationships they built. I had the privilege of hearing the stories of hundreds of homeless individuals in my time of ministry there. Not one was the same. I also worked two Washington DC task forces on what places children and youth at risk. Poverty, homelessness, low self esteem, low neighborhood attachment and so many other elements contribute to making our children more at risk. Homelessness is certainly one of them.

All for that to say, please let me know if there is anything I can do to help. Beyond that the leadership at Aldersgate United Methodist Church is unanimous in its support of the Men's shelter in the proposed location.

Thank you for your work, and your consideration.

Rev. Brad P. Beeman

12/2/2016

I am writing in support of placing a permanent men's "low barrier" shelter near the Eastgate Park and Ride. I have been following the discussion concerning the location for some time. I was moved to write due to a notice in the "around the Northwest" column in Dec 2nd Seattle Times of a body found in a homeless encampment in Kirkland. I have read and listened to the opinions, arguments, and facts provided by the City of Bellevue staff and on social media (Next Door). Many seem to believe that Eastgate is the wrong location. I believe that there is no perfect location in Bellevue. Bellevue is just too dense for that to be possible. The staff report show that the proposed location seems to be the best available.

Dean Dubofsky

12/2/2016

For the record, thank you for your research and the innumerable hours you spend reviewing the public's comments. I know the task ahead is difficult, but as an Eastgate business willing to step forward and voice opposition for this use in the TOD, I am hopeful you will recognize the economic impacts you are sentencing to our business corridor for future growth. I'm certain my comments have graced the desks of a few councilmembers (and Mayor Stokes) on Next Door stating the aforementioned.

Under the ERC (Eastgate Residents Committee) we are researching viable options to support a MLBS in the right region and meet weekly.

My letter to the editor is under personal script, not as the ERC leadership. Let me impart, I have more than personal experience dealing with a younger homeless brother. It took 45-years to get him off the streets (he's 60 now), incarcerated multiple times in multiple states, rehab facilities, intervention, etc., all efforts to assimilate into society to no avail. My family finally stopped all attempts to secure employment, seek medical assistance as they recognized he is unable to function in normal society. It is difficult and infuriating to be around an individual who possesses a sense of entitlement that it's our responsibility and obligation to support his existence. I consider him a risk to the public, stealing for what he needs, so I personally support his housing and sustenance. I also pay the expenses for the low-income families and homeless in his neighborhood that have pets and can't afford basic necessities and associated vet bills. I know the homeless problem exists; I have dealt with it much longer than any councilmember and at the personal level. Of note, when prompted, my brother told me first hand how dangerous the low barrier shelters are and most MEN stay outside at night and not risk their safety inside the facility. That was eye opening. Not all is negative in my story and the

enlightening aspect is, he is off the streets due to adopting and caring for a homeless cat. He was concerned for its welfare and he now has two, very responsible pet owner. If only I'd known earlier being responsible for another's existence proved to be the motivation for him, we may have salvaged family interaction.

I thought you would like to know, I am not heartless and finding a resolution to this homeless situation is a foremost concern.

Linda Nohavec

Letter to Reporter: Linda Nohavec

You can't be all things to all people and be effective.

Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) – provides an appreciated service in our City. They have operated in conjunction with faith based organizations since 1993. They are the obvious choice to lead in finding the solution to homelessness on the Eastside. Tent City 4 has been in many neighborhoods over the years. TC4 moves periodically so different faith groups can be involved in the mission of helping the homeless. There are some basic requirements to live at Tent City 4: be clean and sober, pass a background check, not be a registered sex offender and provide identification. These standards help the parishioners and surrounding neighborhoods remain safe and secure.

CFH opened a winter shelter in 2008 to provide emergency housing to protect homeless people from inclement weather. This was for life saving purposes and no one was turned away regardless of their criminal background or sobriety. It was "low barrier" meaning they would accept known illegal drug users and registered sex offenders. The Winter Shelter has been in a few locations that by design were not near residential neighborhoods. It has operated for eight years without major incident in part because it was off the beaten track.

A Winter Shelter with a life safety mission may make sense to be "low barrier" in a remote area in winter months but it simply does not make sense year-round near residential neighborhoods, a College with a Running Start program, and a Park and Ride where commuters often arrive in darkness. Addicted men will use their drugs outside the facility, they will score their drugs outside the facility, and they will steal property in the surrounding area to support their habit. To say that homeless men do not cause an increase in violent crimes, is not reassuring and statistics dispel that supposition. Property crimes have a significant psychological effect on people. A men's low-barrier homeless shelter does not belong near anyone's residential neighborhood.

It is time to create a better plan to combat homelessness:

- One that does not knowingly enable substance abusers to live right next to our neighborhoods.
- One that does not compromise the safety, security and quality of life of any Bellevue resident.
- One that is supported regionally, adequately sized and integrated into a community that can embrace the needs and services for a successful outcome.
- One that does not stifle/stunt economic viability and impede future growth of an area.

Let's not create a dynamic of dissention between neighbors due to media context and mis-information. It's time to get the facts straight. Our homeless population should not become victim to special interests and neither should our neighborhoods and churches.

Please write to the City Council at council@bellevuewa.gov to let them know you look to them to represent all people in Bellevue, when addressing the problem of homelessness.

12/3/2016

At last weeks City Council Meeting, I had the opportunity to sit and listen to some of the information being presented about the proposed Low Barrier Men's Shelter in Eastgate. It was an informative session for me, but I had a few more questions and comments.

I think creating a homeless shelter is definitely a good idea, and will hopefully save lives and will help those individuals that need a hand up to get out of their situation. Sleeping in the woods, outdoors, and in cars is not helping anyone long term.

The one point I did not hear addressed is how do you handle the opioid addicted who can still function, and will use the proposed Low Barrier Shelter in Eastgate?

(I know they cannot use drugs and alcohol in the shelter). If this person can perpetuate their addiction by finding a place to sleep and eat in the evening, but then can go out and break into cars and homes in the daytime to feed their habits, all we are doing is setting up a perfect scenario to keep the addiction cycle going.

And this is where I am worried about putting this shelter in Eastgate. My wife and I have lived in the Eastgate neighborhood for 21 years. We have raised two kids who went to the nearby Bellevue Schools. I am two blocks away from I-90 and the Eastgate Park and Ride.

If an addict wants to stay close to where they can sleep and eat, we are a convenient target for them to break-in our homes/cars and steal our items to sell for their next fix. These are the folks I am concerned about. I am not concerned about the folks who genuinely want out of homelessness and need help to get out of the cycle.

Please consider putting the shelter in another area that is not adjacent to neighborhoods where families live, and a college is next door. Or, as an alternative, drop the "Low Barrier" feature, and demand drug testing to the folks who want to use the Homeless Shelter.

Also, I am sure you are super aware of the epidemic levels that opioid addiction has hit in our area. These folks need way more help than going to a shelter on their own volition to get clean. They need long term 24/7 treatment and medical assistance, not just a place to sleep and eat.

Jim Lally

12/4/2016

Thank you for adding me to the your interested parties list. You may add splate@gmail.com to keep my husband informed as well.

I discussed this issue with my husband and he is also strongly in favor of establishing a men's shelter near the Eastgate P&R. He is a regular bus commuter and agrees this location would be very practical.

Halina Bojarski and Steven Plate

12/4/2016

I bought my home in Robinswood last year. It is perfect for my family. Wonderful parks for my young kids. Walking distance to Bellevue College and easy bus access around Bellevue for the teen. It was a stretch for a single mom, but worth the investment for a safe neighborhood in a great school district in a city I love. Since I can't make it to city council meetings, I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you what the proposed low barrier men's shelter means to me... I have an 11-year-old daughter. How do you think I will feel having her walk to and from the school bus stop with 100 homeless men in the neighborhood? Men who may be on drugs, may be violent criminals or mentally ill, may even be sex offenders. Do you have a daughter? How you would feel?

Would you feel comfortable asking your teenager to walk to BC? Forget about my kid, what about all the other kids? The 16-year-old running start student. The foreign student with limited language skills. This makes me anxious, how about you?

The fact is that most homeless men are mentally ill and/or on drugs/alcohol. Giving it a nice name like "low barrier" disguises the reality. You are inviting addicts and the mentally ill into my neighborhood. You are not screening them, you are not treating them or supervising them, you're just hoping for the best, right? But where drugs, alcohol, and mental illness go, bad things follow.

A distant concern behind safety is the issue of home values. Do any of you live near this proposed shelter? Would you buy a family home near a homeless shelter? I wouldn't, and research shows a lot of people feel the same way. This home is my retirement. Would it be OK with you if someone took 12% out of your 401k and gave it to the homeless? It's very generous of Bellevue to care for the homeless, but who's making the sacrifice? You've all seen this graphic, now think about the good law-abiding, tax-paying Bellevue residents, the PEOPLE, behind the picture.

I can tell you about my years in San Francisco and my volunteer work with homeless kids, or that I am a member of the church that founded Imagine Housing and have supported their work. I am 100% behind the development of affordable

and emergency housing and the fight against homelessness. But my family has a right to feel safe in our home and neighborhood. If you haven't found a more suitable place for this shelter then, all due respect, you have not looked hard enough.

I would be happy to discuss my concerns with you. I look forward to your response.

Victoria Simonnet

12/4/2016

It was good to meet you at the Council meeting last week. Needless to say, we have a lot of work to do and you can count me in to help. I've been quite fortunate in my life which motivates me to assist those that need help. I'm here to help, just ask.

Here is a bit about how I help nonprofits: <http://425business.com/larry-snyder-auction-block/>

Larry Snyder

12/4/2016

We appreciate your efforts managing this controversial project. We have tried to follow proposal proceedings and deliberations, and earlier expressed our views on the subject in an email that was included in the public outreach summary, published after the Nov 28 City Council meeting. The public outreach was especially revealing to us, for a number of reasons:

- We were impressed by the strongly felt personal concerns and fears from people who live close-by the proposed site and who feel that their lives would be changed by introducing into the neighborhood even a small number of addicts, sex offenders, alcoholics, men suffering from mental illness.
- We concur in a common public outreach comment that the Council misjudged the makeup of the neighborhood surrounding the proposed shelter: it is not undeveloped nor non-residential; it is an established neighborhood of single family units, condos, townhouses and apartments.
- Financial issues highlighted in some comments concern funding source for the seemingly excessive project initial cost (\$23M) and for annual operations. Why not consider an existing city or county-owned building (surplus office, school or fire house)? And will the shelter project absorb funding/bond capacity that might otherwise be directed to higher priority city needs (schools and infrastructure and police/firefighting)?

We think that proceedings to-date have lacked a reaction from the many small local businesses certain to be affected. We also need to hear from other commercial businesses, including near-by motels, the bank, and managers of the several large office buildings in the area. Nor has Bellevue College come forth to express its position regarding the Eastgate site. We believe the proposed shelter proximity to Bellevue College is in itself sufficient reason to abandon the Eastgate option. Why hasn't the Council or the Planning Dept solicited opinions from these other seriously impacted parties?

In its assessment of a possible men's shelter in Bellevue, it would seem that the Council/Planning Dept have focused on: 1) the proposed facility configuration, 2) its operational requirements, and 3) the positive factors supporting the Eastgate site. But it seems that negative factors have received minimal attention. A project of this importance deserves consideration of not only the positive aspects of a candidate site (transportation access, medical access, King County owned-land), but also the negative aspects (relative cost, tax implications, safety/security of the relatively large neighboring population of permanent residents, students, office workers, bus-riders, customers and guests). And we question the value of a Council/Planning Dept "plan" to mitigate negative issues, in that the negatives are inherent to the proposed Eastgate shelter site.

Our position is simply to request a thoughtful, transparent, unbiased review of facility siting options, and to hope that the ultimate siting decision will reflect full recognition of opposing as well as supporting arguments. Site selection criteria may

need to be adjusted to provide recognition of the identified potential problems the shelter might create. And the relative weighting of negative factors might need revision, which could change the conclusion that Eastgate is the best available shelter site.

John & Linda Parazyński

12/5/2016

After working with Tent City several times, and seeing how they had no negative impact on the local community, I am strongly in favor of having the new Bellevue Men's Center. The location is perfect – with bus and food and medical care easily in walking distance. With services easily available, showers, an address to use on job applications, it is so much more possible to get people back on their feet.

Doing events with the people at the shelter with local community members was the best way to defuse neighborhood tensions. Once you meet a few people, and realize that the homeless are not so different, stress levels go down. Book groups, holiday baking, community clean-up/beautification projects, etc. Organizing a way to hire people for day labor is also good – again, a way to meet neighbors and share some common humanity.

Irene Pasternack

12/5/2016

Thank you for the information on the homeless shelter being proposed near Bellevue College and Eastgate Park and ride. As mentioned earlier, we own the Honda Auto Center of Bellevue and the property as well as an office building located right next door. We have several concerns about the proposal and have reviewed the information from the public meeting and we still have some questions regarding the plans.

1. Can you please outline the exact medical services being offered? Can you be more specific? Will there be doctors onsite?
2. Is this one of the sites being looked at by King County to offer "supervised drug injections" for drug addicts?
3. When an occupant of the shelter is deemed unsuitable for the shelter and is turned away, how do you ensure they do not go out into the neighboring community that you specified in your documentation? What is the process and what is required by law?
4. What is the process for approval? What is the time frame of when the city will decide if this is approved or not?

Carrie C. Blanton

Real Estate Director

Courter Corporate Group

Honda Auto Center of Bellevue

12/5/2016

Sarah - please scan & send this to Cameron Parker, Mike McH w/ note this is from Katherine Kitchen who spoke at council mtg
-Thyx
Kate

City Council Meeting - December 5, 2016

Greetings Council Members. My name is Kathryn Kitchen and I live in Bellevue on SE 20th street.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak with you today.

Recent discussion at city council meetings have suggested that the average resident in the proposed homeless shelter is a middle-income single man who became homeless through the loss of a job or a medical event. However, hours of research to really understand the average resident has shown otherwise.

- (1) There is no typical homeless person
- (2) The homeless population is complex, **and**
- (3) The solution will be equally complex

Here is what I've learned so far:

- Many homeless people are recently released from correctional institutes. One study by the US Department of Justice suggests that this number could be as high as 30%. ¹
- Drug and alcohol addiction rates are very high. A recent study in Portland showed that approximately three-fourths of their homeless were addicted to drugs or alcohol. This same study showed that roughly half of their homeless suffered with mental illness. ²
- As many as 15% of the homeless are considered chronically homeless. ³
- According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, 40% of younger homeless people identify as LGBT, and are at a heightened risk of abuse and exploitation. ⁴

This data shows that the homeless are a collection of very different populations, all of whom have different needs.

I am proud that Bellevue is a city that is both intelligent and compassionate. It may feel compassionate to rush into the construction of a shelter, but without understanding the residents and their distinct needs, we can't respond intelligently.

¹ https://www.bja.gov/Publications/CSG_Reentry_Housing.pdf

² <http://www.city-journal.org/html/portland's-homeless-challenge-14185.html>

³ <http://inwv.org/2015/03/03/what-homelessness-looks-like-here-in-four-charts/>

⁴ <http://nationalhomeless.org/issues/lgbt/>

Seattle spends more on homeless than any city outside New York and Los Angeles⁵, and homelessness continues to grow in our area. King County homelessness is growing faster than our population, and is increasing locally, while homelessness falls nationally⁶. The picture that has been painted for us is incomplete. Our actual homeless population includes ex-convicts, drug addicts, the mentally ill, and people vulnerable to exploitation.

I ask the Council to be candid with the people of the city. We don't yet understand this complex population, which means that we can't yet understand a workable solution, especially on the scale that is being proposed. Given this, **let's work together to build a program created with the right rules, the right size, and right location.** This will ensure the safety of the community of Bellevue, as well as the success of a future permanent shelter.

My notes include references for the figures that I've quoted.

Thank you.

References:

1. Reentry Housing Options: The Policymaker's Guide. *Council of State Governments Justice center New York, New York.* https://www.bja.gov/Publications/CSG_Reentry_Housing.pdf
2. Portland's Homeless Challenge. *City Journal Magazine* <http://www.city-journal.org/html/portland's-homeless-challenge-14185.html>
3. What Homelessness looks like here (in Seattle) in four charts. *InvestigateWest.* <http://invw.org/2015/03/03/what-homelessness-looks-like-here-in-four-charts/>
4. LGBT homelessness, *NationalHomeless.org* <http://nationalhomeless.org/issues/lgbt/>
5. Seattle, King County declare a state of emergency over homelessness. *Crosscut.com* <http://crosscut.com/2015/11/mayor-county-executive-declare-homelessness-state-of-emergency/>
6. Snapshot of Homelessness. *Endhomelessness.org* http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/snapshot_of_homelessne

⁵ <http://crosscut.com/2015/11/mayor-county-executive-declare-homelessness-state-of-emergency/>

⁶ http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/snapshot_of_homelessness

Greetings Mayor John Stokes, Deputy Mayor, and Council Members,

*Please scan & send
to Cameron Parker
& Mike ALPH*

My name is Kathryn Kitchen and I live in Bellevue on SE 20th street. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you.

According to [the CFH website](#), their intake process for the year-round shelter requires current state picture I.D. and a criminal background check. Anyone with a sex offense crime cannot be a member of the shelter. Participants must be "drug- and alcohol-free, and willing to address any addiction issues", and must "work one-on-one with a Case Manager"

In contrast, federal funding requires low barrier entry in its 'Housing First' approach. This approach requires admittance of felons, addicts, and sex offenders, and drug users regardless of willingness to address their issues.

King County's 10-year plan to end homeless has failed in Seattle. In an article written by Mark Miloscia in March 2016, he states the situation has only gotten worse. We need to commit to programs that hold the homeless accountable, instead of encouraging self-destructive behaviors that make them homeless and unwilling to work.

This proposed new shelter with federal funding comes with a very different set of rules from typical Congregations for the Homeless shelters. We have to look at the impact. If we leverage federal funding as part of this proposal, then ~~the~~ Eastgate is not the best location unless Bellevue plans for infrastructure to ensure its success. It's too close to students, neighborhoods, parks, businesses, and commuters.

Plans for low barrier shelter near Eastgate should include increased Bellevue police staff to support the safety:

- Of nearby neighborhoods.
- For nearby parks where kids of all ages frequent.
- For students at Bellevue College, which includes high school students in programs like Running start, and Summer Enrichment.
- For commuters who use the park-and-ride next to the proposed location all hours of the day.

For the homeless, easy access to services to help with

1. Recovery from addictions.
2. Mental health treatment for those needing medication and counseling to address their illness.
3. Cleanup services for discarded needles, fecal matter, and other paraphernalia that consistently follow homeless shelters in Seattle
4. And security to ensure the safety of those sleeping at the shelter overnight.

We need solutions that give the homeless a helping hand without disrupting the health, safety, and well-being of citizens and businesses. The plans that have been presented are incomplete and do not address the real impact on the Bellevue community. Thank you.

References:

- **The Seattle Times: King County's plan to end homelessness has failed, March 14, 2016.**
<http://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/king-countys-plan-to-end-homelessness-has-failed/>
- **Congregations for the Homeless Year Round Shelter requirements**
<http://www.cfhomeless.org/year-round-shelter/>

12/8/2016

My name is Seth Farber, and my family and I live one block north of Bellevue College. I am writing to express enthusiastic support for the proposed shelter and supportive housing.

My wife's parents are long-time members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church here in Bellevue. Over the past several years, they have witnessed firsthand the outstanding, transformational work of both Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing. I applaud these organizations' (and the City of Bellevue's) commitment to serving all people who experience homelessness here on the Eastside.

As parents of young children, nothing is more important to my wife and I than raising our daughter and son to empathize with people who are struggling. We believe it is vital to model for them what it looks like to be a good neighbor, and we are committed to doing so by supporting efforts to end homelessness in our community. Thank you for your continued efforts in pursuit of that goal.

Seth Farber

12/9/2016

Alan and Nancy Strand would like to give a total thumbs up in support for a permanent shelter for the homeless in our City Of Bellevue. We have both been helping with meals over the past 5 years at Bellevue Presbyterian Church. To have a more permanent situation that can more thoroughly take care of their needs would be a great step forward. Please do all you can to make this happen.

Alan and Nancy Strand

12/10/2016

As a Bellevue resident for almost 30 years, I am enjoy the peaceful, safety and clean environment what City of Bellevue have provide to my family. Now King county, trying to move 100 homeless into Bellevue that is a bombshell to all the resident of Bellevue. As we all know that mostly people who became a homeless either drug user or person who have a criminal record cannot found a job. This decision will become a threat to resident of Bellevue. I paid my tax and I elected people to make my family living safe and enjoyable, I do not wisher anyone to destroy it. Please reconsider this idea, I work very hard for my living, pay my tax and I do not want my blood money go to them, they should work for their own income but not use other hard working people's money. If anyone really want to help those homeless people why don't just bring them back to your own home and found a job for them too. Remember, Bellevue is not a Seattle we do not need this mess.

MeiChing

12/13/2016

Looking through the content on the CoB web page, I do not see what I would call a site selection and project development report. I see a lot of PowerPoint slides that, I assume, were derived from one or more study efforts. While I am not against the Eastgate Men's Shelter, I do agree with concerned parties that more background study information needs to be made available to the public.

I am writing to request, at a minimum, that the Stakeholder Briefing package be made available on the website. It would also be helpful to show more information on the partnership between CoB and King County, especially any studies done or reports developed to show the rationale for the low-barrier shelter model. That is what the petition signers are after, I believe; they feel like the public has not been given the information used for decision-making.

I know that the Seattle Housing First model is an influencer; so where is the connecting report or analysis that demonstrates the leap to low barrier? Unfortunately, Congregations for the Homeless website also does not provide links to any reports, studies or real rationale for their preference of low-barrier. Any additional transparency that your office or the Planning office can provide would be very useful, along with a guest-post on Nextdoor advertising the new content. That's how to diminish the resistance to this plan.

Christine Zomorodian

12/16/2016

I encourage you to support the building of the Congregations for the Homeless shelter proposed near the Eastgate Park-and-Ride.

Some have complained about the placement of this shelter near Bellevue College. As a community college faculty member (for 25 years) I can tell you that proximity of the shelter to the college is just one of the positive aspects of this project. The recent report in the Seattle Times highlighting Bellevue's joining the TechHire program and the partnership of both Bellevue College and Congregations for the Homeless is just one example of this.

Please do not allow the noisy opposition of a few to cover up the quiet, long term support of the many on this. I am one of thousands of Bellevue residents who have quietly supported the work of Congregations for the Homeless for over 20 years. As you know, it is an outstanding organization that improves the lives of our citizens.

Philip Hunter

1/9/2017

Thanks again for your prompt reply.

It's great that the project has more than just tax money funding it but that's no excuse for the lost that the community might suffer because of it. And since you do have so many contributors, might be wise budget in possible future compensations.

And there still stands the question if they are the same homeless people WHY are they there 2 years from now? Strong agreement in getting them out of homelessness.... what does that really mean? How long do you expect them to be around for? 10 years, 30 years? Til they die? What is the definition of success? And if they are going to be homeless for that long of a term is this a shelter or a permanent home for people who doesn't want to be responsible for themselves? This seems like a bad example to set for our future generations. Living in one of the more desired neighborhoods is just a matter of becoming homeless. Not affected by mortgage, housing prices or rent. How convenient!

Would really like to get some constructive replies and not just stating the bias positions of this project. And whoever is benefiting from this \$23mil (which I'm highly doubtful it's the homeless).

"You **give** a poor **man a fish** and you feed **him** for a day. You teach **him** to **fish** and you **give him** an occupation that will feed **him** for a lifetime." (Chinese proverb.)

Amy

1/10/2017

I am a relatively new Bellevue resident with a family including two pre-teens, and I'm very concerned that you are still considering the "14350 SE Eastgate Way" location for a low barrier men's homeless shelter. A low barrier shelter, I understand, means that people who are sex offenders and current drug users are allowed to use the shelter. This means that (given that higher barrier shelters exist) these are the sort of people you are encouraging into the area when you build a low barrier shelter. This location is very close to Bellevue College. I shouldn't need to explain about the extra risks

and dangers which arise due to locating drug users and sex offenders near an educational facility for young people. I understand the desire to be near transport, so although I would feel less safe near Eastgate P&R, and in fact probably have to find alternatives if travelling alone, it's the young college students (particularly the females) I'm most concerned about.

It genuinely terrifies me that you are considering this idea. I appreciate that it's hard being homeless, and I appreciate the societal desire to shelter the homeless. But a shelter for (those who frequent low barrier shelters such as) sex offenders and drug abusers should not be placed ahead of the safety of innocent families and children. Please find somewhere away from children and students.

Nicole Barber

1/13/2017

I am writing directly to you because it is obvious the managers selecting the homeless shelter location will not relay any information contrary to their position.

In the first public meeting, the Bellevue police major stated that when the winter shelter was open there were "double-digit increases" in car prowls and disturbance calls. In the second meeting, the Lake Hills representative said one of the residents at the temporary shelter committed three burglaries. At no time did the managers bring up the subject of Cassandra Oliphant, a young mother, who was murdered by a homeless man 50 feet from the manager's site. Without any explanation, the managers cook up statistics to show that Eastgate need not be concerned about crime. Could you please ask them how many assaults and thefts per year it would take for their statistic to show that there is a problem? In the second meeting the rationale presented by the operations manager for eliminating the Overlake and transfer-station sites was a farce. The transfer-station site was unacceptable because it was next to a dance school. I work next door. The dozens of students are chauffeured directly to the door. It is the scores of college coeds, some taking night classes, who need your protection when walking to class. The operations manager also stated that proximity to single-family homes was not acceptable, but was unresponsive when residents of the Sunset Ridge condominiums (50 yards from the managers' site) asked "What about us?" By eliminating all but one site, the managers are presenting the council with a take-it-or-leave-it decision.

The managers' site unnecessarily endangers vulnerable college coeds and commuters and lowers the property values of the Sunset Ridge condos. The transfer-station site would have been a better selection. Worse, the managers have displayed a complete lack of advocacy for the neighborhood and are not informing the council of adverse effects.

Sincerely,

Jim Nathman, Bellevue

1/16/2017

I will be at the City Council meeting on the 17th to show my support along with many other Eastgate residents, to request that the City and City Council please delay a decision on the Eastgate low barrier permanent men's shelter. I have been to other City Council meetings regarding this topic—as well as the overall plans to develop Eastgate. Unfortunately I was unable to be at the meeting on Jan 12 at SBCC due to prior plans.

I actively follow the shelter topic on NextDoor. The facts and data presented by some of my neighbors about possible (probable??) deleterious effect of this shelter on my neighborhood are disturbing at best, alarming at worst.

A big concern that I have is, how would this shelter help reduce pervasive homelessness? By that I do not mean simply providing a warm place for homeless men to sleep. I mean what concrete role will the shelter play in reducing the number of homeless men? I have not seen a comprehensive plan. Is there one? Like so many of my neighbors, I favor pathways to assist the homeless men to be permanently *not* homeless. I would like to see statistics that prove that this new shelter is part of that path.

Thank you for reading,

Leslie Geller

1/19/2017

I am writing an email to show my support for the Eastside Men's Shelter. I know there are many voices in opposition, but there are those of us who look upon those less fortunate and see human beings in need of help. My house is not too far from the proposed location - I could walk there if I needed to. There are a few men I see living already in the trees behind my house and my heart breaks to know that they don't have a steady source of food or a roof over their head. These are not murderers, they are men who need our help to simply survive. I am wholly in favor of this new shelter and look forward to possibly volunteering there when it opens. Thank you for your efforts to build this and provide homes to those without.

- Tori

1/12/2017

Thank you for your past responses.

We have attended most of the City Council meetings of late and heard Council updates and arguments put forth by the community speakers but so far our valid concerns on residential safety and security and/or the viability of the Eastgate corridor as a business and transportation hub etc have NOT been addressed. The police data and projections presented on Nov 28 simply do not apply to the "low-barrier" shelter under review.

While we are in favor of providing a homeless shelter, we must be careful not to negatively impact the community. The Eastgate site is in close proximity to single family homes, townhomes, schools, college, businesses, hotels and parks. It certainly does not meet the basic criteria proposed by the City Council.

Further, the decision to select the Eastgate Public Health site was made before any community outreach was conducted nor was there any public hearing before arriving at a consensus on an appropriate location. It is a major decision involving \$23 million public funds.

At this time, over 2,500 residents in your constituency have signed and submitted a petition and raised critical concerns that urgently demand answers. We urge the City Council to host open-minded planning sessions as soon as possible to arrive at an acceptable location to house those homeless in need of help. The shelter has to be "right site, right size, right rules".

Kin Chi and Sui YAN

1/09/2017

I spoke during the oral communication time regarding the men's shelter. I wanted to follow up with an email to reiterate my points.

-I challenge the city to include women in the men's shelter homeless plan. I don't consider Kirkland or Redmond as an answer for Bellevue's homeless women population. The 20 million dollar effort for the men's shelter should include planning to also provide support for Bellevue's homeless womens population.

-The city stated on slide 3 of the November 28th Men's shelter update that Bellevue has 252 children enrolled in the homeless student program. There needs to be a vision check on a 20 million dollar homeless project that doesn't account for the homeless mothers connected to the 252 children in the Bellevue homeless student program. Yes Bellevue may not be funding the whole 20 million for the project however I believe the city should influence the use of funds for the program.

-The Seattle homeless community recently experienced fragmentation of its Nicklesville and Jungle communities. Part of those two communities are now located by the Rainier Freeway station bus stop. The Rainier Freeway bus stop is about a 12 minute ride to the Eastgate freeway stop. The Eastgate freeway will be about a 5 minute walk to the proposed men's shelter. I walked through the community/camp today and counted 26 tents. The camp was at least double that size however the city had recently performed a sweep so the population was down from recent numbers. I

talked with 6 people living in the community/camp. Some believed the camp grows to about 60 people between city sweeps. Given the proximity of the Rainier freeway stop community/camp to easy transit, shelter planners should consider that the Rainier freeway stop community/camp will utilize resources from the the proposed men's shelter.

Attached is a picture of the core camp which is located in the middle of the interchange of I-90 westbound to southbound Rainier ave. It is a very trash littered camp including used needles on the ground. One gentleman from this section of the camp said he'd ride is bike to the proposed shelter to save the bus fare.

The other attached picture shows the bus stop and at the bottom of the walkway out of view was a camper within 150 feet of the bus stop. I want to make it known that there is a homeless community with very easy transit access to the proposed men's shelter.

Please challenge the city planners to look more holistically at the Bellevue homeless situation and comprehensive solutions.

Steve Sanchez

1/11/2017

I'm very concerned about plans to put in a low barrier shelter for 100 homeless men in the Eastgate area. This is far to close to residential neighborhoods, schools and parks. Also too close to the the park and ride. It is a given that crime will greatly increase in the area and property values will depreciate. Before you make this decision, please ask yourself if you would feel comfortable living next door to such an establishment. After all, we must not ask others to do what we are unwilling to do ourselves.

Although we do already have homeless individuals in the area, it's nowhere near 100. It is unfair and unwise to make one community bear such a burden.

It doesn't seem like this shelter has been well thought out at all. There has been a rush to make a decision. The homeless and the community deserve better. The homeless are better served by treating the underlying causes of their homelessness. We should be talking about building chemical dependency treatment centers, mental health facilities and low income housing. We should not simply warehouse them all together. Let's please put thought into this and do it right.

Also, to separate out the homeless based upon gender is not progressive. It would be far better to have coed facilities which address the underlying causes of homelessness. We don't typically separate by gender when a natural disaster causes homelessness, and we shouldn't do it in this case either. Why treat them like criminals?

In this case, the easy answer is not the right one. Homelessness has no easy answer. It will require a lot of time, effort and community support. Putting 100 homeless men, many of whom are drug addicts and/or mentally ill into the Eastgate neighborhood will create far more problems than it solves. The responsibility is yours.

Thank you for your time and your careful consideration,

S.A. Johnson, MA

Robinswood neighborhood, Bellevue

1/14/2017

Hi,

1) The homeless shelter will be disruptive to my life because I use the Eastgate Park and Ride.

2) Please keep in mind that building a homeless shelter in locations where there are a lot of homeless people is very different than building a homeless shelter in a neighborhood that does not have homeless people anywhere near it.

FOR EXMPLE:

the Navigation Center in San Francisco is located on a street that was populated with homeless people. The homeless shelter brought those homeless people off the street and so improved the neighborhood while helping the homeless. WIN WIN.

The proposed Bellevue shelter will do the opposite, bring homeless people to an area that currently does not have a problem with homeless people. WIN LOSE.

Eastgate is not the right location.

Dorothy Giansiracusa

Please put some more thought into the decision to place a low-barrier men's shelter in Eastgate. As a recovering alcoholic, I know most of the homeless are either mentally ill or addicted to alcohol and/or drugs. These men have a low probability of completing the shelter's aim of getting jobs and permanent housing. The mentally ill and addicted need treatment, not just housing.

There are many men who would benefit from a program like you are proposing, who are temporarily down on their luck and want to recover their previous productive life. Housing them with those who just need a roof, but with no real hope or desire for progress, will slow down those who want to recover. It's a hard task that requires peer support and a group effort in the same direction.

Eastgate would be a good place for those homeless who have a chance of and desire for improvement. The mentally ill and addicted would better served if their temporary housing is near bars and mental health services.

Charlie Johnston

1/15/2017

I park at the Eastgate Park and Ride daily and I am a resident of South Bellevue and yet I was never informed of the proposed low barrier shelter near the Eastgate Park and Ride. From what I have heard, neither have many others and some claim that the city council did not follow proper due process and are trying to force this on our community. I am wondering why, as a S. Bellevue resident and daily user of the park and ride, I heard nothing about this until someone posted a message on social media?

So, I did some research. I researched low barrier shelters and their placement and effect on surrounding communities. I researched crime in areas with a low barrier shelter. When a shelter is placed in a residential area, I have read about increased property crime, assaults, sharps on the neighboring grounds, as well as feces. A low barrier shelter works better in a more industrial area with nearby bus lines. And community support. This proposed location seems to be a poor choice with homes nearby and close proximity to the park and ride, schools and daycares. Businesses in the area say they have not been told about this proposal either. (People have canvassed the neighborhood asking them.)

Have you been to the Eastgate Park and Ride lately? The elevators are filthy and stink of urine. There is trash all over the place, even though there are trash cans near the bus bays. I often return to my car at the park and ride late and in the dark. I already have concerns about my safety. If the low barrier shelter is placed nearby, I will have even more.

I am against the proposed location near the Eastgate Park and Ride for a low barrier shelter.

Stephanie Hauge

1/16/2017

I had a good career as a nurse and my husband risked his life as a search and rescue helicopter pilot.... so, I don't think, by any stretch of imagination, we can be considered in any way uncaring or hard hearted. We both do care very much for all humanity and that definitely includes the homeless.

I have read the information what a low barrier shelter is.

The men's shelter was moved first from Bel Red, then to 116th; and is now planned as a low barrier permanent shelter to be moved permanently to Eastgate. This greatly disturbs us for three reasons:

- 1- it is a low barrier shelter for 100 single men
- 2- the location is close to family residences, the college, dorms, parks, businesses
- 3- ...and... not least of all the potential for homeless to settle in the adjacent woods. I don't want to invite a Seattle like jungle. I am not naïve enough to think it won't happen if the shelter is in this area. The woods are too close to the shelter.

When I put myself through college I did not have to walk down a path past a group of men to get to classes.

I also spent time on home visits as a nurse. We were taught to not even get out of the car if there were a group of 3 or more men standing around with nothing to do at the moment.

As a former pediatric nurse, I champion children and want to give them room to play near their homes and go to school safely and away from sexual predators and drug addicts.

This shelter is too dangerous for the neighborhood. It was better when it was in the Bel Red area where it was originally planned to be but developers have arrived in Bel Red.

The homeless problem is very sad and it needs to be solved but in the right location.

Joan Sinclair

As a home owner who has lived on Eastgate Dr. in Bellevue for 30 some years I am writing to let you now that I support the construction of a permanent shelter off of Eastgate Way.

Sandy Grace

1/17/2017

Please do not locate the Men's low-barrier shelter in Eastgate. This type of shelter needs to be located away from residential housing, commuters and college students.

As a young woman, I worked in Downtown Seattle where there were many homeless men. I was assaulted by a homeless man and had numerous incidents where I was made to feel unsafe due to having to walk even short distances to my car. I chose to quit jobs where this dangerous element existed. Locating the men's homeless shelter next to a Park and Ride and college where many women have to walk alone to their cars is not acceptable. In fact, it's irresponsible. Creating a shelter where drug addicts are welcome is not in the best interest of our community. If you read about the shelter in Puyallup, WA, community crime went up once the shelter opened. The current state of property crime in Eastgate is out of control. We were personally burglarized multiple times this past year and the police could do nothing to help, even though we had video footage of the guy. Gone are the days where a family can camp out in their backyard with their children, because there are creeps roaming our neighborhoods every night. We also had mail theft where a person stole a credit card and charged it up. We had a vehicle window broken and items stolen. We have witnessed drug deals at the Eastgate Plaza this past year. We've also witnessed a hit and run accident. Our son's elementary school has had heroin users shooting up behind the school.

Where is the police presence to address all of this increased crime? The last burglary we experienced the police didn't even return our calls. Our family is strongly opposed to this shelter because the City of Bellevue does not have a good handle on its current crime, let alone drawing in a volatile population group.

Many years ago, there was talk of locating sex offender halfway houses in South Seattle. It was considered a good location because it was industrial, not residential. Eastgate is a FAMILY community. People have purchased homes here because they trust it's a safe place for families. This is not the correct location for sex offenders and drug addicts.

I challenge all of the city council members to walk alone in Downtown Seattle near The Mission at 5:30pm and see if they feel safe before they vote that this location is acceptable for our families and young, female college students.

Bellevue does need to find a solution for the homeless. I am not against building a shelter, only against the Eastgate family community location. Additionally, our family and neighbors did not appreciate being shown wonderful retail pictures of how the Eastgate area would be approved once rezoned, only to have it be swiftly switched to a homeless

campus. Our trust for the City of Bellevue is at an all-time low these days. Please show that you care about our community and make the choice to find a better location.

Angela Allison

1/17/2017

I implore you all to reject the current plans for a low barrier homeless shelter in Eastgate.

You are putting all of the residents of that area at risk, along with commuters to the Eastgate park-and-ride, numerous schools, as well as residents.

Services should be put where there is a large homeless population, which is not in that area. If anything, it should be located in downtown Bellevue, but even then it should not be low barrier.

As elected officials whose job it is to protect residents, I cannot understand why you would be bringing a high-risk population to a residential area. Do homeless people even get free bus passes? Why do they have to be right next to the transit center? How many responsible homeless people that work for a living are actually going to check themselves into a low barrier shelter?

I beg of you to say no. The police in this area already do a poor job of protecting us from property crime. We do not need to invite a bunch of criminals and drug addicts into our neighborhoods to burglarize our homes and cars, and put our most vulnerable residents at risk.

Continue the church model, and just say no to any low barrier shelter in this area.

Jennifer Harrington

1/17/2017

Please scan & send
to Cameron Parker
Miki McH

To: Bellevue City Council Members
From: Lindy Bruce, 13624 SE 18th St., Bellevue 98005
Re: Proposed Eastgate Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing
Date: January 17, 2017

Much has happened since I spoke to you in October about council's decision making regarding the Eastgate low-barrier single-men's homeless shelter, drop-in center and supportive housing.

Sound Transit 3 won in November. It would bring a light-rail station to the Eastgate Park and Ride. That scenario is exactly what the Eastgate Corridor Study of 2010-2012 Citizen Advisory Committee planned for with changes in land use and transportation planning to prepare for Eastgate playing an important part in Bellevue's economic vitality and livability. The transit-oriented district is an essential part of the plan. We would now like to see council commit to work towards that vision.

The Eastgate Park and Ride is already beyond capacity on most weekdays - at some point, the county will have to increase its size to accommodate growth, both from Bellevue and east along I-90. You are likely aware that both Microsoft and Amazon shuttle commuters from Eastgate to their buildings in Redmond and Seattle. Those shuttles will add an increased burden on the Park and Ride in the future.

The other big change has been the scope of the Emergency Men's Shelter that was discussed in Bellevue's staff in their Consolidated Plan for the city's Human Services Commission as a part-year emergency shelter for single men in the Spring District because it is wide-open for new development and is close to Overlake Hospital, employment in several close-by commercial areas and near the Bellevue Transit Center and the light-rail system that is being built now.

Somehow that plan morphed into a year-round low-barrier men's shelter for 100 men in Eastgate, with an integrated low-barrier drop-in center for 125 men and supportive housing for another 50-80 men. That represents double the average number of men who have used the emergency shelter in recent years and double the number of months of service per year.

This doubling of time and men served is an enormously ambitious project with a need for a great deal more funding - somewhat uncertain under the incoming federal administration.

Where will these men come from? A look at bus schedules to the Eastgate P&R from various eastside cities shows times varying from 37 minutes to more than an hour. A trip from downtown Bellevue to Eastgate takes 43 minutes. But it's only a 10-minute bus ride from the Rainier Ave. freeway stop to Eastgate. Will this growth come from Seattle's homeless population?

Regarding the criteria set forth for siting the Men's Shelter:

Presence of sidewalks: Eastgate Way has no sidewalks from the 13800 block down to Richards Rd. To get to a sidewalk, you have to enter the P&R and climb up to 142nd SE and cross the freeway to SE 36th. It seems inappropriate to encourage pedestrians to wander through the P&R.

Proximity to human services and medical care: According to the Consolidated Plan for the Human Services Commission, the majority of human services are in the Crossroads area, not near Eastgate. The medical services at Eastgate Public Health are limited to 3 part-time family doctors. Emergency services would have to be handled by Overlake Hospital, a 25-minute round-trip by ambulance.

Avoiding single-family housing: Eastgate is composed of nearby single-family housing in Sunset Ranch, Robinsvue and Sunset Ridge, as well as neighborhoods across the freeway. Additionally, it is discriminatory to exclude low-rise multi-family housing that is as close as 700' away from the proposed shelter location from this consideration.

Near transit center or accessible buses: As mentioned earlier, the shortest bus ride between Eastgate and employment areas is by the #554, which runs between Seattle and Eastgate. Bus travel time between downtown Bellevue and Eastgate by the #226 takes 33-35 minutes. Other eastside routes take as long or longer.

I would like to point out that, unlike Seattle, Bellevue has no definition of a homeless shelter for zoning purposes.

Without supportive Comprehensive Plan amendments and Land Use Code, how can council site a permanent homeless shelter anywhere in the city?

Moreover, how can the city ask one part of the city to shoulder all of the challenges, year-round, for services provided to what are called "men who are chronically homeless"? Surely this should be a shared burden with other areas of the city.

Last year's experiences of fighting in front of Lowe's amongst the clients from the winter shelter at the International Paper site; the December incident at the Lincoln Center site of an agitated client threatening staff, upturning a coffee urn on another client, and destroying property outside the shelter; and the recent fire at Bellevue's mosque started by a homeless man are not reassuring to neighborhood residents.

It is essential that the City of Bellevue quickly seat a Citizen Advisory Group, including citizens from the nearby neighborhoods, before any decision making on the homeless shelter proceeds.

Page 3 Lindy Bruce Comments 1/17/17

I am sure there is a solution for maintaining and increasing neighborhood economic vitality and safety and also helping single homeless men with addiction and mental health problems on the Eastside who are trying to move towards a sober, stable life.

And I believe a Citizen Advisory Group could explore these issues and come up with a concept that is fair to all Bellevue neighborhoods and to the homeless men who need services to achieve sobriety and stability.

1/18/2017

I'm a South Bellevue Resident and have seen the Seattle homeless and drug problem spread to South Bellevue. Having a low barrier shelter at Eastgate is not smart.

The drug using people come here because of the Pot law, and stay because we don't enforce drug laws.

Homeless need help and compassion, yes, but drug users need to stop using in order to get help. Do not help them stay on drugs, require them to stop. The horrible & tragic Mosque arson was done by a drug user who would not stop using and was kicked out of the Congregations for homeless shelter. We do not want more of this in our town.

Do not create a low barrier shelter in our home.

My kids plan on going to BC next year, my husband uses the park and ride, busses, and actually works 2 buildings away from the proposed site. NO NO NO! **Put the shelter down by City Hall where you can see your handiwork.**

Linda O'Byrne

1/18/2017

I wanted to let the council know that while I support services for the homeless, I oppose the eastgate location of a low barrier men's shelter. I feel that, until recently, this decision has been shrouded in secrecy until a decision was made to house it in eastgate, with bare minimum notice being made...few residents knew about it and businesses in the area were also caught off guard. In contrast, Kirkland is spending much more time determining the site for a family shelter (something much less controversial than a men's low barrier shelter). They are also looking at possibility buying property, something Bellevue apparently didn't consider. Bellevue could learn from their process. I feel that insufficient time, as well as appropriate public input, has been spent on this decision. I seriously question the basis for the decision. It's not far enough away from residents....and yes, people in condos and apartments count, not just single family homes (as some staff or council members have stated). It's very close to many schools as well. It's in an area that the city just this summer voted to develop with retail, businesses and housing...will that still happen if the proposed 'walkable main street' of the development goes by this shelter? I feel we and the public have been provided with misleading information as well. First, I've noticed that many people who support the location didn't even understand what the term "low barrier shelter" meant. Some thought it pertained to the fencing outside. The implication has also been that these men will be job seeking and/to have jobs and working with service providers...by trotting out formerly homeless speakers (who weren't in low barrier shelters). Also, that this is the reason to be near buses. However, the need for a low barrier shelter is really specifically for men who aren't willing to follow a lot of rules that other shelters require...like being sober, etc. I'd like to see real stats on moving men who only are willing to go to a low barrier shelter to jobs and

sobriety. At this point the reason to be near buses would be to make it easier for men from all over the county to come to the shelter. If you don't have to be sober to enter, what's going to stop drug dealers from flocking to the vicinity to sell to buyers all in one location? And wouldn't it be better to be closer to 24 hour full service medical like Overlake Hospital rather than the more limited services of public health offices (which one has of your articles noted was too small and may have to move to expand anyway--then what happens to "nearby medical facilities"?). In addition, this has been couched as serving our own east side residents who are experiencing difficulties when this is an agreement with the county and I don't see how it won't serve all homeless men in the county. The city needs to take a break and work on this issue with local residents and businesses towards a solution. Finally, I understand the mayor discounted the 2500 petition signatures as people not understanding the petition. Forget that this is demeaning to those who signed...basically implying we are sheep who just sign a petition because we are asked. Very far from the truth by the way. Meanwhile all of the people relying on the minimal, and sometimes misleading (or at the least disingenuous), information from the city who support it are thinkers I guess. What an appalling statement to make just to try to make your decision look good...nothing like criticizing a large group of YOUR residents.

In summation, I do support homeless services and understand Bellevue agreed to house a low barrier shelter. However I think the process, if you can call it that, has been less than insufficient and I question the location that was determined. I hope the city does its duty on this project and starts a true public process on this issue.

Pam Feinstein

1/19/2017

I saw on the news that many members of the Eastgate Neighborhood are protesting against the proposed Men's Shelter at Eastgate Park and Ride.

I was saddened and surprised. I live about 1 ½ miles away from the Park and Ride and think that **the location of the Men's shelter at the Eastgate Park and Ride is an excellent choice.** The buses are right there and the King County Department of Health is there. Also, Bellevue College is within walking distance. Bellevue College offers counseling and re-entry programs. We catch buses at the Park and Ride and understand that some are worried that crime levels will increase. I believe it has been clearly demonstrated that unsheltered and desperate people are far more likely to commit crimes than those who have a place to live, food to eat and counseling resources available.

Bellevue needs to take affirmative steps to handles its growing homeless populations. We are an affluent City and we cannot ignore the many in our city who cannot find housing. Rental and purchases prices have skyrocketed and our poverty levels have increased significantly. Furthermore, this is a hard city to navigate without a car. Locating the shelter near the bus terminal will provide transportation to jobs and needed services.

So many in this wealthy town think that if they ignore the growing division between the wealthy and the lower middle class and poor that they will go away. This is obviously untrue. I am happy and thankful that the City Council is taking affirmative action to help our homeless population and I think the choice of the Eastgate Park and Ride for a men's shelter is an excellent choice.

Betty Drumheller

1/19/2017

I am a resident of south Bellevue and am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed homeless shelter.

Lisa Coleman

1/21/2017

The proposed shelter should not be located near schools and near residential developments. Many of the homeless who would be served by a shelter that is in itself a good idea, have mental health issues. Mentally-ill people need food and a roof over their heads just as much as those of us who have been able to navigate life more fearlessly. Very few people who object to the Eastgate location would deny they need this kind of support, or would deny them the compassion that they deserve. That does not mean that Eastgate is the best location for the low-barrier shelter.

I notice, with amusement, that those who argue passionately about the need for the Eastgate men's shelter, mention everything except the location. They talk about the heart-rending condition of the homeless (true). They talk about the fact that most of the homeless are not violent (true). They talk about the positive social effects of rehabilitating people, so that they can take care of themselves (true). They talk about the desirability of showing compassion and having social responsibility toward the less fortunate (true). They talk about the fact that homeless people already exist in Bellevue, and that there are not currently enough beds to accommodate them (true). Then they say, "So let's put the shelter in Eastgate! It's obviously the best place!" (whaat?)

Council members, I believe that all of you know very well that there are places in Bellevue where a homeless shelter would have less exposure to residences and schools, and greater proximity to hospitals, than Eastgate has.

But commercial establishments in the area don't want them there. Surprise! They are afraid that men who may be wandering in their minds will wander up to prospective customers and ask them if they have any spare change. I imagine that investors in these commercial establishments are more likely to contribute to campaigns than are the residents of Eastgate, who are not noted for their overwhelming wealth, and do not show up at black-tie events to celebrate the victories of their favorite candidates. I believe that if every council member were given a huge incentive, say, a million dollars, or excellent health, or perfect teeth, each one could find a better location for the shelter than Eastgate is.

So how about it? Can you take the challenge? Can you think, if you think as hard as you possibly can, of a better location for a low-barrier homeless men's shelter than Eastgate (otherwise known as "The Land of Least Political Clout in Bellevue"?)

Aw come on! Don't you guys want perfect teeth?

Cynthia Vautier

1/24/2017

I spoke during the oral communications at last night's meeting regarding the men's shelter. Here are a few more points that I would like to share about the Seattle homeless encampment sweeps and extend an offer to take a walking tour. As I mentioned during the meeting I followed the sweep Seattle did the week of 1/9 of the area around the I-90 and Rainier Ave. interchange. The timeline and events I observed were:

1/9 - Residents of Rainier Ave. southbound cloverleaf commented a sweep was started in the morning but then stopped. One resident thought there was a procedural issue that halted the sweep.

1/9 - Many "Sweep" signs were posted in and around the I-90 overpass and pedestrian walkways stating there would be a "Sweep" on 1/12

1/12 - I returned the afternoon of the sweep and campers were instructed to pack up their belongings and just leave behind what they didn't need. The clean-up crews were taking care of the trash. Some people didn't know where to go. I was unable to find any social workers on site however the police officer I spoke with noted that they had left but should be back. I witnessed one gentlemen moving his tent and belongings from the east side of Rainier avenue to the west side of Rainier avenue within the cloverleaf. The Rainier Ave. south cloverleaf was not part of the sweep so it was quick solution for some people to relocate.

1/13 - I was pretty sure folks were going to move back into the sweep area so I returned to validate. Sure enough a tent was up alongside the pedestrian walkway to the freeway bus stop and an encampment of multiple tents was already up in the landscaping of the I-90 overpass that was swept the day before.

1/13 - As I canvassed the activity at the top of the Southbound Rainier Ave. cloverleaf(non-sweep area) a gentleman with brown rotted teeth typical of a meth addict offered me cocaine and crack. I said I wasn't interested in his offer but was looking for a gentleman that I spoke with on 1/9. He directed me to a cluster of tents. There are a few larger tents connected together at the top of the cloverleaf which seem to make up a shared area. That area has two 4,000 watt generators that are typically found on residential jobsites and one was running. It also has a 70,000+ BTU jobsite heater.

The gentleman that offered me drugs went into that group of tents and ask a young woman to talk with me. She knew of the gentleman I was looking for and noted he was away. I asked her about the sweep and she said it happens from time to time. She shared "they" are messy so the city has to clean up the area now and then. On this visit I also noticed a pile of about 30 used and uncovered needles that were dumped on the ground around the camp area.

1/24 - I returned today and took a few pictures of the tents that have popped back up in the sweep area. Before sending this email I wanted to confirm if the encampments were still there or not. I first noticed this encampment in mid-December so it seems to have some staying power. I also talked with a police officer that patrols the area that includes the Rainier ave exit cloverleaf and he stated he has to go in there from time to time when the fires get out of hand. He stated when the fire department has to go in there to handle the bigger fires they request support from the police department because the fire fighters do not feel safe in there. Attached are pictures of tents back in the sweep zone, needle on the sidewalk, community living in the cloverleaf and campers that have tapped into city streetlight wiring for power to their tent(clever).

The reason I am sharing this information is to raise my concern about the location of the permanent men's shelter and associated changes to the community that a shelter and services can bring. In talking with the homeless around the Rainier Ave. they use services from Peter's Place. <http://www.compasshousingalliance.org/what-we-do-top/day-services/peters-place/> However they choose not to use the overnight shelter. As a side note to my 1/9 email Peter's place takes in both women and men in their overnight shelter. The proposed men's shelter will be similar with overnight and daytime operations. The proposed shelter will also be located by WSDOT land and a Utility right of way. Both areas seem like places where encampments could flourish if left UNCHECKED. Campers could use day center services and retreat to WSDOT land around 148th and I-90 and to the west of the Eastgate Park and Ride on the power line road. Seattle seems to have their hands tied with dealing with these illegal encampments. The Seattle Times recently ran a couple stories on the issue of the sweeps, here are the links. <http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/seattles-cleanups-of-homeless-encampments-violate-rights-new-lawsuit-claims/> <http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/northwest/lessened-role-of-homeless-camp-cleanup-monitors-is-questioned-by-human-rights-group/> Seattle seems to be bogged down in policy that limits enforcement of basic trespass law.

I believe the city of Bellevue should study their own operating procedures on dealing with homeless encampments and fully understand the tipping point of when encampments will be left unchecked because of county, state or ACLU policy limitations. I consider the encampments around the Rainier Ave Freeway bus stop to NOT be in check. I also consider Seattle to have next to NO control over the community living in and around the Rainier Ave Freeway bus stop. This community will also be two bus stops away for the proposed Eastgate men's shelter. I believe the shelter planning staff should consider servicing some of Seattle's homeless population and specifically the population living around the Rainier Ave. freeway bus stop. Both the CFH men's shelter and Peter's place hand out bus tickets so that will help folks that need to travel between communities. Although the CFH shelter as a good track record I believe a permanent location will bring new challenges as it creates a hub of support services that can better support illegal encampments. I want to encourage our City planners to be ahead of the game with policy and procedures that will prevent illegal encampments from forming within Bellevue and on adjacent WSDOT land.

I would also like to offer a walking tour of the community living in and around the Rainier Ave Freeway bus stop. This may give some you a chance to see a little different community than what CFH services today and also experience the ease of using Sound Transit between the locations. We would use the 554 Sound Transit bus to zip between the Eastgate park and ride to the Rainier Ave Freeway bus stop. Buses run every 15-20 minutes so it would be very convenient to ride over, walk around and ride back.

Kyle has my contact information should anyone wish to reach me by phone.

Steve Sanchez

1/26/17

Dear Council Members,

I did some research on how shelters for the homeless seek to operate and alleviate the plight of the homeless. So far, my questions lead to my conclusion that there are two models, or approaches out there. Here they are:

There are two methods of dealing with the issue of homelessness that are being used in metropolitan areas today. One is the "abstinence" model, and Seattle's "Union Gospel Mission" is an example of this model. The other is the "harm reduction" model. The proposed Eastgate low-barrier men's homeless shelter is an example of the "harm reduction" model.

I called the Union Gospel Mission and found out the following (after talking to 3 different representatives at the Mission): everyone who stays at the Mission has some kind of job, usually within the Mission. It may be just keeping the floors swept, but everyone has tasks. Violent or abusive behavior will get you ejected from the Mission. If you want to stay at the Mission you must commit to doing your best to be substance-abuse-free. You can be in rehab, and you may relapse, but if you get back onto the wagon and try to completely abstain from substance abuse, you will be allowed again as a Mission resident. If you successfully complete a substance abuse rehab program, and want to continue forward in becoming an independent member of society, the Mission will enroll you in GED classes, if you do not have a high-school diploma. When you get to this stage of freedom from addiction, you move to Riverton, a Mission facility located near Tukwila and Burien. The GED classes are not part of the Washington State school system, but are run by the Mission. People who complete their GED's and remain substance-free are referred to by others in the Mission as "Superstars". Out of the thousands of people who move in and out of the Mission, or apply for beds there, roughly 10 or 12 people a year achieve these goals (according to the Mission representative that I talked to). At this point they are ready to move on to the next stage: finding a permanent job and becoming self-sufficient. The Mission will help those who graduate move on to attend college or technical schools. The Mission does not pay their tuition, but they help them find grants for their further education. Even with this further training, these amazing people still face formidable odds. Many have criminal records or records of having experienced periods of mental instability, which makes finding a job a lot more difficult than is the case with many of us. But many of those who reach this point, do it. All along the way, they have Mission case managers and Mission advocates, and Mission friends in corporations willing to give people a second chance. These people help them achieve the goal of living lives just like most of us do, addiction-free and productive. Even for these people, many will always have a fear of re-addiction that lurks in the background. The success stories are amazing. But they are few. The percent of those who reach this point, after having applied to the Mission, has got to be less than 1percent. But the suffering that is alleviated by the Union Gospel Mission, if only temporarily, is truly significant. They are a religiously-based program.

That is the "abstinence" model. A newer model is the "harm reduction" model, and it is being funded by the federal government, maybe other entities as well. This model is defined as "a set of practical strategies that reduce negative consequences of drug use, incorporating a spectrum of strategies from safer use, to managed use, to abstinence." The goal is to save lives and reduce suffering, even if this means that substance abusers will continue in their particular addiction. Addicts are offered help in reducing their substance use and help in entering rehabilitation programs. Residents are accepted regardless of the fact that they may have mental health issues. It is foreseen, by managers of such facilities, that trips to the Emergency Room may be necessary, both for physical reasons and for emergency mental evaluations. Confrontations may erupt between residents who utilize the facility when they are "under the influence". It is understood that this sometimes comes with the territory. The goal, again, is to reduce fatalities and reduce suffering. Some studies indicate that the existence of these kinds of facilities for the homeless, with these looser kinds of rules, has reduced Emergency Room visits and medical costs, and has consequently reduced costs to society. One article states that "Motivational interviewing and psychoeducation are often utilized with the harm reduction model". It will take time to find out if this approach results in a lower relapse rate than the "abstinence" model. Certainly there will be fewer deaths due to exposure and drug overdose. Hopefully, more people will find a bed for the night. Attendance at Washington State schools for people in this type of program is NOT a goal. It was not mentioned in any of the "harm reduction" articles I googled.

Between attempts to reduce substance abuse, combat mental illness and scramble for funding, both models of homeless accommodation programs are stretched to the max. It is amazing that Seattle's Union Gospel Mission can, in addition to all this, produce high-school equivalent graduates. And THEN help some of them find grants to go on to more education. The percentage of residents who achieve this is very low, but there are indeed people out there, drawing your blood, cutting your hair, welding your beams, who used to be homeless. It is claimed that the "harm reduction" model saves more lives. But it is the "abstinence model" that produces people with GED's and helps them get jobs. You can't have everything.

Cynthia Vautier
January 26, 2017

1/26/17

Since Salt Lake City has been such a talked-about city in regard to their response to the homeless, AND since they mirror what the Seattle area is doing as far as proposing sites for 4 new shelters (2 men's shelters, 1 women's shelter, 1 family shelter, in Salt Lake City), I thought I would find out what kinds of sites Salt Lake City has come up with for proposed homeless shelters. Here is what their proposed sites are like, as of Dec. 13, 2016:

- 1) This site is an old car-tow lot, surrounded by car washes, businesses, vacant lots, restaurants and major arterial streets. Blocks away there is an apartment complex. The nearest residences appear to be on the other side of an intervening block of additional business and parking lots, not visible from the car-tow lot.
- 2) This site looks like a former school that then got turned into a pre-school. On three sides of the building there are businesses. On the south side of the site, across the street, there is a combination of blacktopped parking lots with some modest residences. This site is mostly surrounded by storage units, businesses, office buildings and tram lines, and is basically in the middle of a business district.
- 3) This site appears to be completely business-industrial, with administrative offices, parking lots, thrift stores, vacant areas and restaurants, with views of 15-story buildings in the distance. The nearest residences are modest homes facing a huge electrical transformer station and set in the midst of a mixed-use, residential-commercial area. Blocks down the road, in one direction, you can see what appear to be residences.
- 4) This site is about a block from a major highway, "Veterans Memorial Parkway Highway". There is concrete everywhere, a museum, office buildings, parking lots, warehouses and vacant lots, lots of gravel. In the distance you can see one apartment complex.

My reference is: KUTV.com, reporter Sara Weber, Salt Lake City, Utah, Dec. 13, 2016 article. Addresses appear in the article.

If this is the kind of site that other large metropolitan areas are coming up with as feasible, workable sites for homeless shelters, I think we can say that Bellevue is diverging greatly when it designates Eastgate as a suitable location for its low-barrier men's shelter, however great the idea of such a shelter may be.

Cynthia Vautier

1/26/17

Dear City Council members,

I have seen many ideas and much discussion around the arrangements of the proposed low-barrier men's homeless shelter, but have never seen the "think outside the box" idea addressed of hosting this shelter outside of city limits, but under Bellevue supervision.

I understand that under the three-city arrangement Bellevue will be "responsible" for caring for the homeless men, but I don't see why that means the shelter itself, especially if it is to be low-barrier, would reasonably need to be in the city proper.

Provided a suitable space could be found outside city limits and good transport set up, either via scheduled buses or transport managers, this could be an excellent solution for concerned residents, while still caring adequately for the men. In fact, it could be better for the men, as they will be naturally further from easy sources of getting into trouble, getting solicited by dealers, etc.

There is some precedent for this: Tent City 4 has operated for quite some time outside any city limits, using public buses. King County has copious land, and as long as transport is readily available, building a well-developed facility outside city limits seems really an excellent idea to me, and one all your constituents could be happy with: providing compassionate housing for the men, but without damaging safety and property values.

Please consider!

Best regards,

Ann Hendricks

Robinswood neighborhood in Bellevue

1/27/17

Dear Bellevue City Council Members,

I am writing to you directly because I am uncertain whether public comment on both sides of the proposed Eastgate shelter is reaching the council. I urge you to reject placing a large low barrier men's shelter in the Eastgate neighborhood as currently proposed by City staff. I would not be opposed to a medium barrier (required case worker, minimal screening) shelter in the area. I hope you will request that a new plan be developed which would include input from Eastgate neighbors and careful consideration of multiple sites.

Opposition to the shelter comes down to one issue: **low barrier**. Discussion of any other aspect is misdirection. The proposal has not changed since it was first made public on August 1. Public comment was not used to improve the proposal, but rather to change the narrative told by the City in subsequent meetings. The City releases statistics about medium barrier and women's shelters to play down concerns of Eastgate residents and patrons. Shelter proponents have spread misinformation in local media, labeling opponents as NIMBY and "uncompassionate," even equating a low barrier men's shelter with a shopping mall in order to avoid addressing the actual concerns voiced.

I understand the low barrier requirement may be a string attached to the federal money portion. However, sometimes the cost of "free" money is too high. If Bellevue accepts this money and the shelter becomes a dangerous nuisance, will Bellevue have the power to close it? It would be better to build a shelter that serves Bellevue's needs and remains under Bellevue's control.

I came into this process with an open mind when I learned about it in mid-August, but after attending both informational meetings and reading the City's literature and public comments, I have concluded this is an ill-conceived proposal and Eastgate neighbors would pay a hefty price. The following concerns have not been addressed adequately:

(1) **It would congregate the chronically homeless in one suburb.** The primary purpose of this shelter is not to get the men out of homelessness (CC study session 11/28). From CFH's statistics on the winter shelter (CC study session 11/28), we can expect over 70% of the shelter clients to remain chronically homeless (40-50% move from low to medium barrier shelter where 60% then move into permanent housing). The current plan is to throw the men and services together

and “hope” that the men “might” use the supportive services, rather than requiring accountability: meeting regularly with a case manager and taking steps toward permanent housing. I think you would find Eastgate residents supportive of a medium barrier shelter populated with men taking steps to end their homelessness. A low barrier shelter would be better placed near hospital and police emergency services.

(2) It will increase property crimes in the surrounding neighborhood. Drug addicts will not be required to seek treatment, in fact can be high inside the shelter. To support their habits, they will likely break into cars at the P&R and BC, as well as homes in the surrounding areas. When the rotating shelter was in Lake Hills, they had problems with break-ins until the shelter began minimally screening clients (presenter from Lake Hills neighborhood, 10/27 community meeting). The police said BC will need to cut down some trees on its lovely wooded campus to prevent the shelter clients from engaging in illegal activity there (9/29 community meeting).

(3) It will increase the population of dangerous sex offenders in the neighborhood. Level 2 and 3 sex offenders will be congregated near Bellevue College as well as nearby apartments and condos and the P&R. CFH says 1-2% of its clients are sex offenders (FAQ Shelter and Homelessness Operations: http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/pdf/Neighborhoods/Eastside_Men_Shelter_FAQ_101916.pdf) and 500+ different men are served at the smaller winter shelter every year (CC study session 11/28). While only 1-2 sex offenders will be living in the shelter at one time, the quoted numbers indicate that at least 5-10 different sex offenders would be brought into Eastgate every year, not counting day services clients.

(4) Neighbors would be more likely to encounter men exhibiting unpredictable or aggressive behavior. Men with mental health issues would not be required to address them. The only rule for this shelter is no aggressive behavior *inside the shelter*. What happens when P&R users, neighbors and college students encounter someone such as the CFH client who set fire to the Eastside Islamic Center? Of course there are likely already a few dangerous men in the area already, but this proposal will bring more into Eastgate from other areas.

(5) This is a county wide shelter on county property. What is to stop King County from filling up all beds with homeless from other cities, such as Seattle? The City’s response to this question is that Seattle’s homeless don’t want to come to the Eastside (community meeting 9/29), not that Bellevue would have any control over who resides in the shelter. Eastgate residents support housing our homeless neighbors, but balk at importing a large population of homeless men from greater Bellevue and other cities.

(6) Will Bellevue have control over this county facility if it becomes a nuisance? Is there some level of increased crime that the City would find unacceptable? 5-10% rise in break-ins? More than a couple of assaults or rapes? If so, could the City start screening shelter clientele? Would the City have the power close the facility? Would the City compensate victims of crimes traced back to the shelter?

(7) What will the shelter residents and clients do when they are not in the shelter? The answer is “some of the homeless have jobs” (community meeting 9/29)--which would apply to those living in a medium barrier shelter; however, the concern is the clients who are there only because it is a low barrier shelter. What would those who aren’t taking steps to end their homelessness do all day? Loiter, panhandle, get drunk or high? What can the neighborhood realistically expect? Wishful thinking won’t change the answer.

(8) Does Bellevue city government operate behind closed doors now? A proposal is developed secretly and quickly pushed through with little public scrutiny? I hope you will consider the secrecy and opacity of this process with skepticism, and view the data presented with a critical eye to determine whether it is actually from a comparable facility (and there are none of this scale in King County) and whether it is from a neutral source or from someone with a financial interest in moving the shelter out of the Spring district or downtown.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to one of your constituents. I hope you will protect Bellevue's less affluent neighborhoods and not just powerful property investors and regional interests. Doing the wrong thing would be worse than doing nothing at all. I hope we can slow this freight train and come up with a measured solution that meets the needs of Bellevue's homeless without harming our neighbors in Eastgate.

Sincerely,

Melissa Harp
Bellevue, WA

2/18/2017

At the February 16, 2017 Annual Meeting of the Sunset Community Association, the membership took a quorum vote of No Confidence in the process by which the City of Bellevue has determined the county site at 14350 SE Eastgate Way to be the location for the permanent Winter Emergency low-barrier single men's shelter for 100 men, the low-barrier drop-in center for 125 men and the supportive housing for at least 50 men. The Emergency shelter is slated to become a year-round shelter when funding is found.

This location is adjacent to the King County Metro Eastgate Park and Ride, as well as Bellevue College and family homes.

Our concerns are:

Crime: including the likely potential for vehicle prowls at the P&R. There has been insufficient consideration for the crime information at the current Lincoln Center temporary winter shelter, the previous International Paper location for the shelter and especially the crime rate that rose almost 260% near the St. Peter's shelter location. There have been fights amongst the men, vehicle prowls, home break-ins, property damage at bus stops and in parks, etc. These are a great concern, considering the location next to the P&R and Bellevue College.

Location: adjacent to a capacity-used P&R that the clients would have to use for access to the sidewalks on the south side of the 142nd overpass to walk to Factoria or the Albertson's Plaza, as well as to board a number of bus routes from the I-90 HOV station. It is also adjacent to Bellevue College, with its large population of young students, as well as teens attending Running Start. There are also family-occupied condominiums within 700 feet of the shelter.

Size: This would be the largest low-barrier men's homeless campus on the Eastside with a capacity for 175 men with addiction and/or mental issues as well as men with criminal records. Likewise, experiences at other shelters around the country suggest that placing a recovering community adjacent to a low-barrier shelter, as would be the case at the potential Eastgate location, places the recovering community at greater risk of returning to addiction behaviors.

Rules: With only internal rules of behavior, clients can arrive drunk or on drugs. This means they can use drugs or liquor in the neighborhoods before coming into the shelter or drop-in day center.

Eastgate-I/90 Corridor Study Citizens' Advisory Committee recommendations: This study, which was developed by local citizens in conjunction with city staff from 2010-2012, was focused on making Eastgate the I-90 gateway to Bellevue. Additionally, the group was tasked with preparing for a light-rail station in the corridor. The light-rail station was approved as part of the Sound Transit 3 vote in November, 2016. The committee recommended zoning changes that would increase economic vitality in the corridor and develop a Transit-Oriented Development District (TOD) to increase residential and pedestrian use of the corridor. While affordable housing incentives were recommended, there was never any discussion of a homeless shelter or supportive housing. Placing a permanent low-barrier homeless

campus in the most visible part of the TOD would considerably diminish the opportunities that light rail would otherwise bring to the area.

We encourage the city to re-evaluate all of the sites they considered originally with greater consideration for existing neighborhoods, nearby commuters, residents, students and businesses who would experience the above-named problems on a permanent basis if the Eastgate site were chosen.

2/20/2017

I am with many in our surrounding neighborhoods Please do not put a low barrier men's shelter in our neighborhood. We can help them in other ways. This is next to a college- according to my brother and his friends that attend- nothing has been sent out to them or their parents about this proposed site- there are single girls that live in dorms there- the proposed site is close by schools - i can see a woman's/children's shelter but would you put a low barrier men's shelter near your home or kids?

Please rethink this. Some homeless do need our help- others are moving here because of how Seattle "takes care" of the homeless.

Do these men have warrants? Who are they? What is their background? Wouldn't you want to know.

I am all for helping- but this is enabling them- they have to WANT help- and throwing them in a Bellevue neighborhood because the park and ride will be convenient for them is not the right answer Please listen to us:(

Tisha Westwood

2/24/2017

I would like to state that I am a S. Bellevue resident (Somerset Woods neighborhood) who is in favor of the proposed men's shelter near the Eastgate Park & Ride. I believe it is not only humanitarian but safer to keep track of and provide services for area homeless men.

Very truly yours,

Ann Ross-Clarke

2/25/2017

I have made comments in support of the shelter in the past but after reading the article in the recent *It's Your City* it occurred to me to write again.

The article states, "Other residents have voiced opposition to this location, expressing concerns about shelter operations, crime and safety, potential impacts on surrounding property values and proximity to nearby schools, Bellevue College, and residential homes."

From reading all the background materials provided by the City it seemed to me that the City has conducted a thorough site analysis and identified the most promising site among the alternatives; has enlisted a skilled and experienced non-profit partner; and, has involved BPD to help ensure the future safety of shelter residents and members of the surrounding communities. In fact, fear of increased crime appears based on the assumption that shelter residents are inherently dangerous, a fear that is unsupported by any data I am familiar with.

Likewise, the objections related to property values are not based on any evidence I am aware exists from comparable shelter operations anywhere.

The previously noted objections are the same one hears when almost any shelter or supported housing development is proposed. In response government has only three alternatives. Do nothing which, thankfully, the City has determined is not the way a responsible and compassionate government should respond. Second, locate the facility in a desolate

environment bereft of connections to the larger community, a move which is both mean-spirited and counter-productive. Or proceed in an intelligent, comprehensive and fact-based manner which the City is doing.

Tony Mazzella

2/27/2017

I used to live in Seattle but when I decided to marry and start a family, decided to purchase a home in Bellevue. What I loved most about Bellevue at that time is how Bellevue welcomes growth and progress, how the city takes pride in maintaining its city and parks. The people and diversity of our communities is wonderful, public schools are safe, too many other positive to mention! Most people enjoy this city for many of these same reasons.

I don't recall ever being asked by our city about opinions for this "proposed" shelter. Found about it much the way other people found out about it: Once the city had set their sites and decided on this location. Confusing I know sinceI'm asked in City of Bellevue paper about my opinion on more important things such as "Community Enhancement Projects". (Hey, but glad you asked!)

Perhaps I missed it, but even when talking to City Council candidates that campaigned door to door, this was never part of any election campaign agenda either. Had I known!

Think we all agree that something needs to be done to help the homeless problem. Obviously it's not going away. In our area, we're reminded of this on several on/off ramps and on many of our local Bellevue streets, and, especially on the "other side" of the bridge, just beyond The Mt Baker Tunnel in Seattle where one sees tents dotting the side of the freeway and what has become a mess around that city....

Hence, the million dollar question: What is reasonable and will really help these homeless men get back on their feet, many who have drug and chemical dependencies and as research proves, most won't sustain long term change?

I don't understand the lack of common sense in putting a men's shelter as this is currently described, next to schools, family homes, parks and a college where so many innocents are living their lives. Who is advocating for the safety of these people? I'd also like to know that if the city moves forward on this project without proper input from its citizens and God forbid, an innocent is injured or killed from someone living at this shelter, who will be held accountable? What is our fine City of Bellevue doing to create some kind of victim compensation fund? Surely they can expect a lawsuit if something happens by a person living at this shelter, especially since so many people have blatantly opposed this project and have specifically stated so. What about the hard working local student, mother, father, son, daughter, commuter, co worker, friend, who happens to be at the "wrong place at the wrong time"? What's the proposed plan to protect these hard working, tax paying citizens?

What is the plan for increased police and transit security in the area of this site and is there a proposed "Safe Injection Site" being planned that we don't yet know about? These are legitimate questions that should be asked of The City of Bellevue regarding this project. What are the foreseeable and long term financial implications to fund this and all related services?

As a compromise, it may be a great thing for our community if a family shelter is put in the proposed place in lieu of the mens shelter. I'm sure much of the local community would rally and help people that truly need and want the chance to get back on their feet and become productive members of society. This is a basic human right. But from what I've heard, an "all mens" shelter as currently being "proposed" is not acceptable in this "proposed" location. One has to think where the common sense has gone in our fine city! There are much better places for a mens-only shelter to be located in Bellevue; several which have been suggested in past meetings. It should not be located anywhere near this residential community!

Recently I heard on the radio more discussion about Seattle offering "Safe Injection Sites" for heroin users. Starbucks and Nordstrom bathrooms in downtown Seattle have become current injection sites since heroin users have no other place to go. It is absurd to think that we will not have these same issues at and around the proximity of this mens shelter. I'm certainly not a rocket scientist nor a "fraidy-cat", but!

Build it and they will come. This has been proven time and time again. Look at the wonderful city of Seattle as a prime example. How does the City of Bellevue plan to accommodate the men who seek assistance at this shelter location and are turned away?

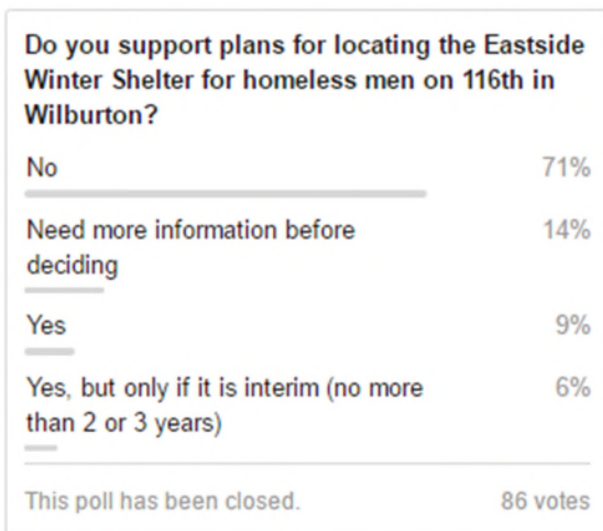
City council and government, we voted you in to office to hear our voices and be our representatives. Regardless of how you decide to disguise/address this, I am opposed to this particular shelter in its current "proposed" state/ in this particular place as are many others in the community. We are not a small number and will remember your decision next election cycle.

Thank your for your consideration.

Suzy Lindemann

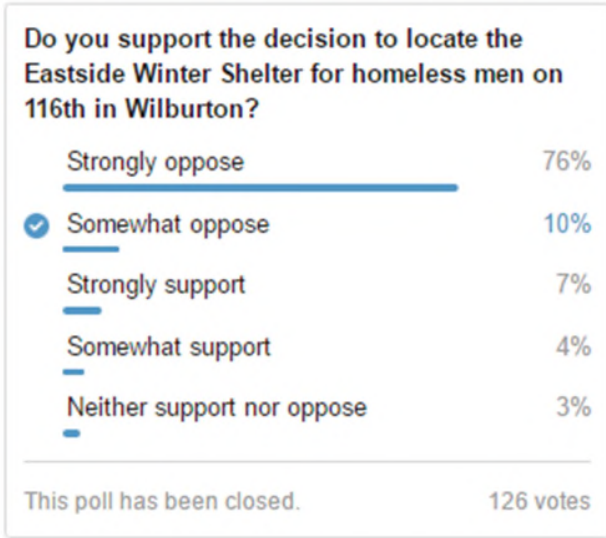
2/27/2017

I have attached a copy of a thread from nextdoor.com. These are comments are from residents who live in different neighborhoods in Bellevue. Many of these comments are in opposition to the low barrier shelter. There was a poll done through nextdoor from residents living in Wilburton in September 2016 and showed the following:



Shared with Wilburton in General

After the November 2016 City Council meeting and with more information was given to the public the poll was retaken with the following results:



there was less support for the low barrier shelter.

There have been discussions of homeless people found doing drugs on trail paths, men urinating in public the BSD school bus grounds, fire at a mosque, and at least one business finding a man sleeping in their stairwell. Businesses do not want to publicly report the homeless loitering on their property because of their loss of business concerns. Not to mention although they may be unrelated, an increase in break-ins.

I have also attached a thread. I feel it is important to note that we have still many serious concerns about and for the safety and well-being of Bellevue's neighborhoods and city. Most of the people in the nextdoor community are voicing their opposition to have the men's low barrier shelter being developed in our city. We do not feel there is enough evidence to support that a low barrier shelter can be safely run in our city and we are concerned that once the shelter is built, there is no recourse. We feel there are other cities better suited to meet the challenges of a low barrier shelter.
Phyllis White

2/28/2017

I am a property tax paying Bellevue resident who is writing to urge you to reconsider the site for the currently proposed Eastgate men's low barrier emergency shelter and to become solution oriented in the fight against the homeless epidemic. I am pro homeless receiving assistance but opposed to the low barrier shelter siting within 2 miles of established unsecured neighborhoods/schools and also opposed to safe injection sites anywhere in Bellevue. The 10 year deadline to "end homelessness" is up and the King County approaches taken (including low barrier) have failed. Homelessness is down 35% all over Washington but up 15% in King County since the 10 year deadline was established. Safe injection sites and low barrier shelters are not solutions to homelessness.

Expanding Seattle's fruitless low barrier model to Bellevue and other cities known for their residential family communities (Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, Issaquah, White Center, Ballard) is further enablement of the issue and will cause homelessness to sprawl over the entire county and negatively impact our treasured residential neighborhoods and community resources (like parks and green spaces). Creating new low barrier shelters does not solve homelessness... it makes room for more. Many homeless people interviewed have stated that they are not from Washington State but come to King County because they hear we are accommodating to the homeless. It is true, there are some homeless men with ties to Bellevue, however, the low barrier shelter will be unable to prevent men from outside the area being attracted by shelter services and the surrounding green spaces. CFH is not planning to

require IDs; these homeless men can come from wherever and even have active warrants for their arrest. The current temporary winter shelter is drawing men to sleep in the Botanical Gardens (including the restrooms) and the stairwells of nearby businesses even though there are beds open at the shelter. Many people visiting or working in the Wilburton area have complained about public urination as well as being yelled at by the homeless men and other disturbances like young students being harassed on Metro buses. Regarding the homeless man who burned down the Mosque recently, this man was rejected from the CFH temporary emergency shelter due to behavior issues and released into the streets to wreak havoc on the community. If a permanent low barrier shelter is implemented in Eastgate, we can expect the same behaviors -- and occupied schools and homes will be the ones at risk instead of empty businesses and churches.

If a low barrier shelter approach needs to be a first step in a system of solutions, it should be located near medical facilities (open 24/7) and not near a college and elementary schools and unsecured residential areas. An industrial area near to city resources and buses would shield our unsecured residential neighborhoods/schools from the crime low barrier shelters attract. The only appropriate type of shelter for the proposed Eastgate site would be one that fits the area and not one that would cause significant disturbance and change the look and feel of our neighborhoods and limit business potential on the I-90 corridor. Such a facility could be high barrier low income housing that screens for men that are able to attend college and receive assistance locating jobs. Shelters with close neighborhood/schools proximity are not appropriate for low barrier models that invite criminals, actively high/drunk, mental illness w/ violent tendencies.

The Eastgate site with the current low barrier plan is inappropriate for the interests of both homeless men and the community. The perceived advantages of the Eastgate site (Bellevue College, Health Center) are not realistic advantages. The majority of men in a low barrier emergency situation are not emotionally ready to be successful in college nor seek jobs. The health center is already operating at full capacity and underfunding. It is also not open 24/7. Also, where are the existing users of the health facility supposed to go once 160 men with significant health needs start to over run it? Placing a shelter that accepts criminals, actively high/drunk, mentally ill within 600ft of homes and near to at least 10 schools (where minors attend), with access to green spaces and directly next to a busy park and ride is disastrous for our residential community and limits business opportunity in the I-90 corridor. There are statistics from the Ballard shelter that show the increase in crime and calls to emergency service to support this statement and that shelter only houses 80 people.

Thousands of voters in the city of Bellevue are concerned over the current Eastgate low barrier proposal. The most important thing our government can be doing regarding the homeless issue is in-depth research into the causes of homelessness in an effort to find true solutions to this epidemic. I would expect solutions to come in forms that can address the underlying causes such as: Drug addiction, mental illness, criminal records, poverty, and disability. Each cause needs a separate set of solutions. Low barrier shelter can not be a solution to all of these problems and is at best a "band-aid" approach. I'd rather see the emergency shelter continue to be a temporary winter shelter in the industrial area until a plan emerges that is in the interests of everyone in the community and offers true solutions.

Mauren M. Olsen

2/28/2017

My name is Sue Johnson and I am a resident of the Robinswood neighborhood. I have an advanced degree in clinical psychology and worked for many years with the chronically mentally ill, the chemically dependent and the homeless. It is my professional opinion that the warehouse style of "low barrier" housing proposed for Eastgate is a bad idea and will serve no one well. In talks with fellow professionals, I have not found any who think this is a good idea.

While listening to both sides of this issue at city council meetings, I realize that two different groups of the homeless are being presented.

On the pro "low barrier" homeless shelter side, typically represented by members and volunteers of CFH, the focus is entirely on the high functioning homeless individuals. These are the men who are simply down on their luck and just need a bit of help. They are highly motivated to succeed and want to contribute to society. It is very rewarding for staff to work with these men as they do get better and they do move on. Not at all surprising that these are the individuals selected to be brought to the council meetings to illustrate success.

On the against "low barrier" shelter side, it is typically the other group of homeless individuals who are low functioning which are the focus. This is understandable because these are the folks who are a danger to the community. These individuals are unemployable. They are not motivated to succeed. They have poor impulse control and poor judgement. They suffer from varying degrees of mental illness and/or chemical dependency. Many may suffer from delusions and/or hallucinations which might lead them to think that burning down a church is a good idea. These folks will not move on and they will not get better. They are the chronically homeless. They don't make staff happy or proud and no one is going to bring them to a meeting as a sign of success.

In the proposed warehouse style of "low barrier" shelter, both of these groups are combined. In time, this proposed facility will become increasingly dangerous. For the very simple reason that the vast majority of the beds will be going to the second group, the chronically homeless. Because they don't move on. The surrounding community will suffer the consequences.

I strongly disagree with "low barrier". I think evaluation and intake is crucial to creating a treatment plan, to helping those being served and safeguarding the community, the staff and those being served.

I would not be willing to work at this proposed facility.

Thank you for your time and your consideration. If you are in support of this proposed shelter, I urge you to reconsider.
Sue Johnson, MA

2/28/2017

I support strict rule shelters in Bellevue, such that the users of the shelters must be free from drugs both inside and outside, and follow rules set down by the shelter. I cannot support low barrier shelters, as these would tax the City's resources, including police, fire, public safety and maintenance, plus the human cost to the tax paying residents. Many of us on the Eastside will not go to Seattle anymore due to the homeless, do we want to turn Bellevue into the place that no one goes?

I cannot support injection sites, and I do it from the perspective of someone attached to a government bureaucracy for 30 years. We, the taxpayer, will end up buying their clean needles, their heroin, doing their injections for them, driving them to and from the sites, because once we set up the sites, we start the liability for their deaths - and they will die, that is what heroin addicts do. Helping them die does not help them live, it helps them die more slowly. Heroin is illegal for a reason, it does not help to grow the problem. Go after the Oxycontin, go after the makers, the providers, the chain of supply, but do not set up these injection sites.

I understand that there is federal money that Bellevue would receive by reducing the standards, but what if we end up spending more money dealing with the problems, and having people fleeing the area? Frankly, I am several years to retirement, and Bellevue looks less attractive all the time - and I will be a well off pensioner. Do you want to lose me, and people like me? I love Bellevue, but it seems like it is flirting with self defeating policies.

Marilyn Vancil

2/28/2017

I would like to share that I am a South Bellevue resident who is NOT opposed to a men' shelter being built near the Eastgate Park and Ride. I think it makes sense for it to be near health services and public transportation in an area next to office buildings. I see homeless men almost every day. I actually think it will make the community safer if these men are kept track of and have access to public services.

Ann Ross-Clarke

2/28/2017

I think our city can help the homeless by educating them, giving them rehab and therapy support, teaching them a skill or giving back instead of just handouts there is a huge heroin epidemic and mental illness it boils down to a medical social and psychiatric issue please help those who need it! Thank you for all your efforts. This is not just something money can solve it is dirty hard work but needs to be done because many of these people are passed helping themselves they need the human connection

Karrie Murphy

2/28/2017

Hi My name is Floyd Murrill I am a Eastgate resident for 37 years. I oppose your Eastgate location based on the guidelines for low barrier shelters.

It is unrealistic for you to expect a community to welcome this with open arms when it was Perviously to be located in a safer & better suited location. There was NEVER any real transparency or appropriate or competant study's done on how this will impact the area.

The residents are not going to re elect people to represent us who fail to do so.

This shelter will be unsafe for nearby families/residents, students/schools, businesses as well as park & ride costumers. There will be nothing in place to keep the general public safe from men in This shelter. Do not tell us lies of comparing this low barrier shelter to family shelters. It IS NOT THE SAME THING.

The size of such a shelter with minimal guidelines & rules will be the biggest tarnish on your public service record. It will not help many men actually from Bellevue, but importing homeless men from outside the city & why should we pay for that?

This site will be a prime candidate for a safe Injection zone/site. You need to ask yourselves would you live next to this? I understand the collage is behind this as well as the CFH & I can assure you the residents know the underlying reason for this with future concessions for them from the city.

I have yet to see one study that accurately reflects the real shelter you are proposing at this site. (low barrier is not a family shelter so stop using that as your basis for comparison, we are not buying that) Please do you job !! & that is to represent us citizens that vote.

Rest assured I will do my job by telling all residents, social media, local news media, radio,TV at council meetings. I will tell everyone the truth about what the real shelter you propose to force on us is all about.

A Low Barrier Men's Shelter DOES NOT BELONG IN EASTGATE.

Floyd Murrill

3/1/2017

I fully oppose the establishment of a low barrier at Eastgate. It seems obvious to me that this is a poor location because of its proximity to educational institutions, day care facilities, park-and-ride location frequented by women and children, and a large number of single family neighborhoods. The facility should be put in an industrial area or at least one a safe distance away from the kinds of facilities just mentioned. It is all well and good to show support for the homeless, but it should not be done at the risk to the greater community of crime, waste accumulation, unsavory characters hanging out, and property value reduction.

Andrew S. Bushkin

Robinswood neighborhood (49 year resident)

3/2/2017

I am writing to express my concern with the proposal to put a low barrier homeless shelter in the Eastgate area. One of the many reasons I choose to pay the high price to live in Bellevue is because it is a clean, safe city. Homeless are unpredictable, desperate and dangerous because of mental illness, drugs and/or alcohol (this is based on experience not assumptions) and I do not want them in my neighborhood near my children's school or my daughter's college where she will be attending as a 16 year old. Would you allow your young teenage daughter to ride a bus from Newport to the Eastgate park and ride and walk near the same trail where a homeless man sexually assaulted and strangled a woman?? This type of shelter and program has NOT worked in other places. This is a threat to the safety of the citizens of this area. Please do not let this happen.

Renee Harris

3/2/2017

I am a 55 year old professional woman who has lived at Harmony at Madrona Park for almost 20 years. It's a very safe neighborhood with lots of elderly people and more recently many small families with children have moved in. With the lovely wetlands, there are lots of small forested areas and trails nearby. I am single and have always felt safe. I walk early in the mornings to enjoy the sunrise. I walk, bike or run in the neighborhood every day.

I recently discovered that the City of Bellevue is planning a low barrier homeless shelter for 100-300 men in our neighborhood at 14350 SE Eastgate Way. <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/eastside-mens-shelter.htm> I heard that drug addicts, sex offenders and homeless with a criminal record will be allowed in this low barrier facility.

I have signed this online petition expressing concerns:

https://www.change.org/p/bellevue-city-council-residents-against-eastside-men-s-shelter?recruiter=605630297&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink

I am worried that our homes will no longer be safe with this low security facility just **1 block away**. I will not feel safe walking, running, biking in my neighborhood if I know that known sex offenders and men with criminal records are located 1 block away from my house. The neighborhood has lots of small forested areas due to the wetlands.

- Homeless shelters are supposed to be in commercial areas. Why is this one in the residential neighborhood? And near a community college? This not supported by the city zoning laws.
- How will locating the homeless shelter miles from the rest of the homeless facilities and city center help the homeless?
- What plans do you have to increase police and security to protect the residents & college students from the sex offenders and the criminals?
- How will you ensure the safety of the residents and the college students?
- What will keep the residents & students safe with all these forested areas to hide in if a crime is committed?

I will not feel safe knowing 100-300 homeless men potentially with criminal records are hanging out 1 block from my house. I will not feel safe inviting my teenage nieces to come stay with me. I'm concerned that the city of Bellevue is willing to bend and/or break zoning laws to place this low-shelter facility in a residential neighborhood.

In my view, it would be wiser to place this facility near other, already established homeless facilities so that you can:

- Help the homeless more effectively by centralizing them & services for them rather than distributing them miles apart in the city
- Concentrate the police presence to a single location
- Protect our safe residential neighborhoods

I firmly object to your plans.

Thank you for listening,
Maria Balsamo

3/3/2017

Thank you, Bellevue City Council, for doing your best to answer our growing homeless problem. Partnering with Congregations for the Homeless was your first right step. My synagogue has worked closely with that organization and they really do change lives. Thank you for doing your best to find a good location for the shelter. As I am aware, drug addicts, sex abusers and other violent people live all over our city. They are mostly not homeless. They live everywhere, even on my block. The new shelter will help people and all of us will benefit.

Donna Blankinship

3/3/2017

I believe the council is close to voting for or against the location for the low barrier homeless shelter in Eastgate. I am not for this location for many reasons I have stated in my previous email below (sent 10/2016). There is not one successful low barrier men shelter in the United states placed in the middle of residential neighborhoods, preschool, college, and next to park and ride lot with cars left all day. Therefore, I do not think this location has been vetted thoroughly.

The city needs to analyze the risk of getting sued for creating an unsafe atmosphere in a heavily family oriented area when the shelter attracts men with mental and drug problems. We recently saw the Bellevue mosque fire caused by a man rejected by the current CFH shelter and he fits the profile of possible future client of the low barrier homeless shelter.

I am opposed to a safe injection drug site that will eventually be placed near this low barrier homeless shelter for helping addicts per Duchin's plan.

There are no IDs being checked. Therefore, our taxes will be paying for all homeless men that may not be residents and traveling from far to get to this place. When the beds are not available, they will move into the nearby children friendly parks and trails.

There are thousands of residents in and near Eastgate and south and mid Bellevue signing the petition in opposition to this location. There are neighborhood polls that are in opposition that are in majority.

Please listen, address our concerns and vote for:

- a different suitable location
- with properly regulations for admission
- fund case study by our local professors, students to find a better solution, vet other locations based on assess risk tolerance of the area.

Most of the residents are in favor of a shelter with restrictions and in a location far from family suburban areas. We chose to live in Bellevue over Seattle because of its safe environment for our kids. Please do not let Seattle's homeless problem to be pushed solely into Eastgate and spill into near by neighborhoods.

Tuli Davenport

3/5/2017

I'm writing to you as a very concerned, nearly 50-year resident of Bellevue (born at Overlake Hospital, raised in South Bellevue, graduate of Newport High School, current South Bellevue resident) who believes strongly in helping the homeless, but also believes in balancing the needs of the homeless with the security and safety of students, residents and the community at large.

The proposed location at the Eastgate Park & Ride and Bellevue College does not serve both needs equally, and in fact, would destroy the security and safety of people using the adjacent Park & Ride and Bellevue College, and the numerous other neighborhoods, schools and businesses that are within a 2-10 minute walk from the proposed site.

Here are my personal observations from years of using the P&R and attending Bellevue College:

- I've used the Eastgate P&R since it was built, and have seen numerous car break-ins, frequent use of elevators as restrooms, and have been forced to take detours to get to the bus or my vehicle to avoid people who made me feel unsafe because of threatening behavior too many times to count.
- Likewise, Bellevue College--which was not built with safety in mind--already has it's share of security problems. While taking evening continuing education courses at Bellevue College (which I did for nearly 15 years), there were several occasions when security guards stopped by classrooms and warned us not to use the restrooms because there was someone prowling them. Unfortunately, in the older main part of campus, restrooms are not located in the buildings with classrooms, but rather are in open areas outside of buildings in "pods"--this is very unsafe for students, and very difficult to monitor effectively. I've also been startled on numerous occasions by people coming out of the bushes while I was walking across unlit, isolated parking lots to get to my car.
- As you well know, there has already been a murder of a pregnant college student by a homeless man within a few feet of the proposed location of the homeless shelter (I was at the P&R when her body was discovered--that is something I will never forget).

None of this will improve with a LOW-BARRIER shelter located within feet of these facilities unless there is extraordinary security measures put into place. I urge the Bellevue City Council to re-evaluate it's choice of location for this shelter, and provide detailed information to area residents about:

- 1) How many residents, students, commuters and businesses will be impacted by the homeless shelter.
- 2) How the safety and security will be assured for all these constituents.
- 3) How the facility will be funded, both in terms of building the facility, and long-term operation.
- 4) Evidence that the size of facility proposed is appropriate (is it too big, too small, just right; and for how long?).
- 5) What happens to the people who are turned away from the facility because they are not "behaving appropriately?" Where are they sent?
- 6) How the facility will impact operations of the current health center, and what, if any, actions will be taken to ensure the facility continues to be available to the people who currently use it.
- 7) Who the likely people will be to use this facility. Will they actually be from the Eastside, or will it lure homeless people from Seattle? How will we ensure it's focused on helping people from our own community?
- 8) How the facility will impact local businesses.
- 9) Options for the type of shelter in a location such as this. Would it be better served with a family shelter or a shelter that sets minimum requirements for residents, etc.
- 10) Information about whether or not this site would be considered for a second King County "safe injection site."

It's shocking to see the misinformation that has been coming from the Bellevue City Council and the media about this issue.

"The site is located in a non-residential area of Eastgate in Bellevue." ([City of Bellevue FAQ](#)).

Technically it's true that *the actual site of the building is not zoned residential, but it is within a 2-10 minute walk of MANY MANY neighborhoods and schools.* It is egregious and extremely misleading to say this site is "a non-residential area of Bellevue." Honestly, this statement means one of two things about the City Council: 1) Members have not been to the area and so do not know what they are talking about; or 2) they know the area, but are so determined to place the shelter in this location that they are blatantly attempting to deceive the general public. Neither of those conclusions reflects well on the council.

"A low-barrier shelter accepts people based on their ability to be behaviorally appropriate. This means that people can access the shelter and day center who may be under the influence of drugs or alcohol or have criminal records. These programs will accept sex offenders. They are not denied entry if under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. ([City of Bellevue FAQ](#)). "Those who exhibit aggressive behaviors are not allowed into the Shelter/Day Center at any time." ([City of Bellevue FAQ](#))

What happens to the people who are not "behaving appropriately" or showing signs of "aggressive behavior?" Are they turned away to wander the area? Apparently that was the case with the [recent arson](#) at the mosque in Bellevue.

This incident does not reflect well on current processes/procedures put in place by CFH, or the ability of the Bellevue Police to take appropriate action. How will that be improved if this shelter is opened?

- *The proposed site for the new shelter is just north of Interstate 90 next to a transit hub and the King County Health Department, in a business district away from schools and most housing. Bellevue College is a short bus ride away, but it always has been a short distance from homeless people living in the woods and under overpasses in Bellevue. ([Seattle Times Article](#)).*

This is a prime example of how the misinformation that is being spread about the location of this men's shelter is being parroted by the media. Truth: Bellevue College is a 2 minute WALK (not bus-ride) away; it is within a few minutes walk of numerous residential neighborhoods, schools and businesses. Also, how does "always being a short distance from homeless people living in the woods and overpasses" make this location acceptable? There's already been one murder; how many murders or assaults will it take before it's unacceptable? The Seattle Times editorial team is clearly drinking the Bellevue City Council cool-aid.

In the past, I've had great respect for the Bellevue City Council and it's stewardship of our community, but have quickly had that good opinion destroyed by the current situation. I join the [thousands of residents](#) who oppose the location of this LOW-BARRIER men's shelter co-located with schools, neighborhoods and the public P&R. **Let me be clear, I don't oppose helping homeless men.** Rather, I believe there are other options that would better serve the needs of the homeless men in question, while maintaining the safety and security of the thousands of people who live, study and travel through this area of Bellevue every day.

If the Bellevue City Council **does not reconsider this location and provide factual, balanced, un-biased, complete, research-based information to the public that backs-up the conclusion** that Eastgate is a good site for this LOW-BARRIER men's facility (for all constituents), then I will be voting against every single person currently on the council until they are no longer on the council, and I will actively encourage others to do the same.

You have a duty to be respectful of the health and well-being of the people who pay taxes in this city. Please do the right thing and conduct due-diligence on the proposed site of the shelter before making a decision. Do you want to be the council that is respected for unbiased consideration of all aspects of decisions such as this? If yes, reconsider and put well-researched facts on the table. Or do you want to be known as the council that is unduly influenced by a few with deep pockets to the detriment of thousands of residents, students and businesses? If yes, keep going as you are.

I, for one, sincerely hope you have the integrity to make the right choice.

Sincerely, Heather Van Schoiack

3/5/2017

At the encouragement of many local residents on Nextdoor, I'm forwarding a recent post I made on Nextdoor to the City Council. I was not expecting my inbox to be flooded with agreement to what I think is a pretty common sense approach to the shelter. I find it interesting that most don't comment on Nextdoor publicly because haters will call them racist or some kind of phobia. I have no doubt that the council has good intentions with this shelter but they should also know that shelters such as low barrier attract homeless to the area from all over the country. Seattle has not fared well with its war on homelessness in the last 10 years. Not sure why Bellevue feels it could do better.

Nextdoor post:

Hasn't this low barrier mens shelter been the most active thread ever for our area? There has been at least 3 different threads with hundreds of comments. This alone goes to show that the Eastgate location is very controversial. Naturally people who don't live near Eastgate think it's a great location. Those who live in Eastgate can see their property values depressed and as well as the quality of the neighborhood. The only fair way I can see locating this shelter if Bellevue has to have it would be for it not to be a permanent location anywhere. It's simply not fair to residents to have their property values and quality of the neighborhood permanently damaged. Keep it rotating as is.

Mike Doratik

3/6/2017

Tom Kussy homeless shelter comments 3/6

The proposed eastside low barrier homeless shelter is advertised as an east side homeless solution but this premise is contradictory to the requirements put forth by those insisting that the shelter built in Bellevue be low barrier. There is a narrative often voiced regarding Bellevue's new proposed shelter that our homeless community is comprised of those who are victims of unfortunate circumstances who just need a helping hand to get back on their feet. Most often I suspect that this is indeed be the case and if so, there is no need for the low barrier requirement. Quite the contrary in fact. Since the vast majority of our eastside homeless could pass a security check when checking into a nightly shelter why is this shelter required to be a low barrier shelter? Both our homeless and homeowners deserve to dwell a safe and secure community the sort of safety and security that all of Bellevue is known for and has enjoyed since its beginning.

Furthermore what of the homeless themselves in our community who would benefit from a temporary stay in a safe and peaceful homeless shelter. Is it fair to them that they be subjected to sharing personal space with criminals, drug users and those who should be in a psychiatric hospital? Those who are a threat to others and themselves need specialized care in a controlled environment dedicated to those individuals.

The Seattle homeless mess is growing significantly and is becoming legendary. It is certain that as the Seattle homeless who do not qualify for entry into shelters there due to behavioral issues or criminal status would take the opportunity to board the bus for the 15 minute ride to the eastgate park and ride and enter a low barrier shelter here where they could mingle with the more well behaved and vulnerable. Once here if they misbehave and are asked to leave they will be unleashed on the surrounding community. Even if they control their behavior while in the shelter there is no reason to expect they would be well behaved once the incentive is removed and they leave the shelter to roam the broader community. Good intentions will not keep Bellevue residents safe. Removal of this low barrier requirement is needed to address these very real concerns.

Which brings us to why do we have this low barrier requirement? I understand that it is because of a funding requirement. It seems this low barrier super size solution is one that is being packaged by outside money agencies and politics. An unnecessary and dangerous solution that is being forced on the eastgate community or whatever Bellevue community is chosen. The idea of an eastside homeless shelter is one of importance to both the homeless and the citizens of Bellevue. We need not and should not subject any Bellevue community to such a permanent burden on families, schools, commuters and the homeless themselves.

We can, we should, and we need to arrive at a homeless solution that works for everyone not one that makes compromises on the basic requirements of any successful community; namely the safety, security, peace, and well being of residents such as those of us who have committed to the eastgate community with our families and our future. Please do not put the demands of prospective funding agencies ahead of these basic rights.

3/6/2017

Hello,

I live in the Spiritridge area and am all for the shelter where you have it planned. I am not worried about the men there as CFH has a great track record. I have helped with their program in a very small way for 20 years. My neighbors fear the unknown. They have not had enough experience with the homeless. Please stay the course, the neighbors will come around once they see its benefits in practice.

~Dorinda Otto

Bellevue City Council,

3/8/2017

I'm am sure you are aware of an active post on Nextdoor regarding the proposed low barrier shelter by the Eastgate P&R.

I'm writing to voice my concern as I learned that 80% of our neighborhood poll voted opposition to the low barrier men's homeless shelter, but there is no one person on the Council or a lead representing the 80%, those of us who are the majority in opposition. Is there a plan to address this proposal in a more democratic public opinion rather than a monolithic decision by the city council?

I live in Phantom Lake so I'm concern on the potential safety issues this proposal will bring to the surrounding unsecured neighborhoods and schools.

Chris Huang

3/9/2017

Hello, I live in Bellevue near Phantom lake. My family and I have expressed multiple concerns regarding building a low barrier shelter in Eastgate. We have also attended two community events on this topic. Every time we felt like our concerns are not taken seriously and City Council as well as CFH are trying to convince us that homeless people are not dangerous and building a homeless shelter in Eastgate will NOT increase safety risk.

Today I came across the following article: <http://www.kiro7.com/news/local/victim-of-golden-gardens-attack-used-defense-class-moves-to-fight-off-attacker/500903168>. A woman was attacked by a homeless sex offender inside a public bathroom at a popular park in Seattle. There are other examples proving violent and unstable behavior of homeless men.

If this shelter is built in Eastgate, how can you guarantee that something like this won't happen by either homeless men residing at the shelter or homeless men attracted by that shelter to this area? Will you be taking personal accountability in case anything like this does happen?

The proposal to build a low barrier shelter in Eastgate is completely unacceptable and won't be taken lightly by the residents of this area. Yes, homeless people do need help but the proposed solution is NOT the right solution and will not solve any problems, it will create new problems

Olga Bertakova

3/10/2017

As a long time East Bellevue resident, I would like to have my comments and feedback sent along to the proper persons regarding the proposed site for the upcoming permanent men's shelter near the Eastgate Park and Ride/Bellevue College.

I am completely opposed to this location and as a long time Bellevue resident, who has enjoyed living here for decades, there are grave concerns that come up with this proposed location.

The site is far too close to family residential areas (including my own neighborhood) as well as young people attending Bellevue College, and having a homeless shelter in this area will undoubtedly draw additional transients from other areas, as well as the fact that many of these people have mental disorders, drug issues and highly questionable backgrounds, which in turn brings up safety and crime issues for Bellevue residents, as well as concerns over a certain drop in property values. I just do not see a single pro to any of this.

I am vehemently opposed to this location site and I hope my input will reach the people who are debating on where to put this shelter. There must be other viable options.

Thank you for your time and please let me know if my comments were received?

Eileen Montagnino

3/11/2017

Please note Bellingham is working to put their low barrier (easy access) shelter away from residential neighborhoods and retail business districts.

Also please note how the nearby homeless problem has also affected nearby businesses.

Bellingham has also planned an 'easy access' shelter as they call it (the same as low barrier) for 100 men and 100 women. Their goal, along with the Lighthouse Mission, is "to get people through the door, give staff a chance to connect with them, and build trust so those who are homeless are willing to get services". According to The Bellingham Herald the city has been looking for more than a year to find the right location "**away from residential neighborhoods and retail business districts and preferably in an industrial area**". The city plans to relocate 5 business tenants and find new locations for these business tenants to move to.

The Lighthouse Mission is located in this area in Bellingham and nearby businesses have had to put up iron gates to keep the homeless at bay and so business owners can get in their front doors to open in the mornings.

When you drive down W.Holly Street you see storefronts with iron gates.

The point is, this will be Bellingham's LOW BARRIER shelter, and it reflects what we are considering introducing to Eastgate. Here's the link to the article: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/news/local/article136353663.html>

I hope you will consider how much a low barrier shelter of 150+ men in one spot will affect Eastgate. I'm sure in your hearts you also know the Eastgate location is wrong. It will deleteriously affect the safety of people coming and going to work using the park and ride especially in the winter when days are short and dark, not to mention cars sitting all day as targets for break ins to get money for drugs.

The location in Eastgate is too close to our commuter college, businesses and residential neighborhoods with families ...and children.

To top it off this shelter will become a magnet for all of King County and elsewhere when word gets around that it is low barrier, and serves free meals. And it is to be built on an environmentally sensitive steep wooded hillside. The woods remaining after construction of the shelter will become a haven for any spill-over and then we will have a jungle problem like Seattle's.

I am not the only one who feels betrayed by our County and City Councils. Furthermore, if Eastgate becomes a CHEL site (or In-Site) that will cause even more harm to a community that is just trying to be good citizens, work hard, pay taxes, and raise their children safely.

It's the LOCATION of a LOW BARRIER shelter that is harmful not a homeless shelter itself.

Joan Sinclair

3/11/2017

For the past five years as a Sammamish High School parent, I have given many many kids countless rides to and from sports, evening band events, and other functions to and from their government/ low income housing both on 145th Pl SE and 148th Ave SE and the surrounding areas of Bellevue College. These young teenagers are in general, fending for themselves, getting themselves home, are in charge of younger siblings, getting themselves dinner, and getting themselves to and from work many times in the dark evenings-sometimes as late as 10:00 pm. They typically have a

single parent who never attends any of their sporting or band events and they are basically alone. Many times I've given them rides to the QFC on 145th so they can shop for their dinner that night, and they choose to walk home from there.

Putting a men's low barrier shelter in this vicinity is negligent and frankly putting these latch key kids at higher risk than they already are. I can't believe anyone with any kind of conscience for these already young vulnerable kids would consider endangering their safety more than it already is. Sammamish High School is already at a great disadvantage from all of the other Bellevue Schools and those of us who have chosen to have our kids remain in our district deal with many disadvantages already with both the struggling sports programs and small programs (band for example) due to the demographic we are burdened with. Many parents in the rest of Bellevue admit they would never let their kids attend Sammamish High School as I'm sure you all are aware of the class structure in our city.

Also, you do realize that our kids have to use the Eastgate Park and Ride to transfer to and from school. Some of us have just chosen to drop our kids off due to the lack of safety. Yet, many kids are at the Park and Ride at very early morning hours in the dark (sometime alone) as well as the dark evening hours. It's actually quicker to use the city bus to get to Interlake High School or the International High School from my home near Vasa Park, although our neighborhood's home school is Sammamish High School. This is yet another example how the city treats our neighborhoods as second class citizens.

It should be your priority to consider the safety and well being of these young disadvantaged and low income kids who frequently go to Robinswood Park and QFC. Now that you've allowed a marijuana store to open on 156th Ave SE, you will create a direct path for your low barrier homeless shelter men to frequent during the day which also is within minutes from the wooded Robinswood Park. Where will you designate these men to do their drugs? I have a relative who is schizophrenic and chooses to be homeless from time to time so I am fully aware and understand some of the struggles of his illness and how irrational and dangerous a mentally ill citizen can be. Allowing sex offenders to be near these kids is completely irresponsible. Please consider another location that won't put the burden on our school community which already suffers a disproportionate burden in the Bellevue School District.

Jackie Rudasics

3/12/2017

AS I PREVIOUSLY ADVISED YOU AT THE COUNCIL MEETING, I BELIEVE IT'S A SERIOUS MISTAKE TO CONSIDER A LOW BARRIER FACILITY AS DESCRIBED. I ADMIRE YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT THE HOMELESS AS I DO ALSO. I AM A STRONG SUPPORTER OF RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ON YOUR PART AS WELL AS THE HOMELESS. I BELIEVE THAT YOU COULD EASILY SLIP INTO A FINANCIAL LIABILITY NIGHTMARE AS WELL AS A POLITICAL STORM SHOULD ANTI-SOCIAL OR CRIMINAL BEHAVIORS ARISE AND IT WOULDN'T TAKE MANY.

LARRY NOEL

3/12/2017

Is there a reason we want this problem here?? A low barrier shelter is made for people with these problems. Yes you can stop this and not commit political suicide. Bellevue is not Seattle and should not be.

http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/not-today-jogger-fights-off-sex-attacker-seattle-public-toilets-1611130?utm_source=yahoo&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=rss&utm_content=/rss/yahoous

Tyson Dunn

3/13/2017

I think the CoB needs to hold another community meeting (as they did in the fall at BC) for residents. At this point many of us now know a lot more about the situation than we did then and we have a number of important questions about

the site. We need a forum where the CoB and CFH will answer questions posed by the attendees and will be willing to answer follow-up questions as well. There are still many unanswered questions about this project and we deserve some answers before any decision is made. So far many of the responses to questions have been minimal or evasive.

Pam Feinstein

3/14/2017

I am writing as a concerned mother and local resident to voice my strong opposition on the proposed location for the permanent Eastside Mens shelter in Bellevue.

I believe that the proposed location 14350 SE Eastgate Way being so close to the Bellevue College and other schools and recreational parks would pose a huge risk to students and young people who commute, study and socialise in the vicinity. Too many children and youth would be put at risk by locating homeless men near Bellevue College and Robinswood Park where students and sports people go day and night.

I think it would be detrimental to schools and colleges in the area and harmful to families who want to feel confident their children are getting home safely. This would be a huge cause of anxiety for local residents and young people.

As a mother of daughters I strongly oppose this location for a mens shelter. It is totally irresponsible to consider housing homeless men so close to students at Bellevue College which should be a place that people can feel safe to learn.

I hope my voice and the voice of other locals is heard.

Aleasha Dearsley

3/15/2017

I would like to share my thoughts about the proposed permanent men's homeless shelter and transitional housing in Eastgate.

Overall, I am in favor of this project. The problem of homelessness isn't going to fix itself by magic. Homeless does not mean criminal, and the Bellevue Police data concurs. To successfully transition out of homelessness, people need services and support, not contempt and isolation.

What I am not in favor of is the secretive activity and lack of transparency that has brought us to this point.

Questionable actions sow distrust and resistance, not support. I am disappointed that the City has gone about this project in a way that seems designed to ire residents and inspire skepticism.

Honesty in rezoning, timely police data, evidence that the decision to site the shelter in Eastgate is not driven by developers/developments in other parts of town - all of these would contribute to broader community support.

The City has done little in recent years to sow goodwill in south Bellevue. We are consistently overlooked for improvements and regularly ignored as compared to other parts of Bellevue. The City has done little to advocate against Energize Eastside, to coordinate growth with the cities of Newcastle and Renton, to complete projects in this area (namely parks creation), to protect us from urban blight and to generally protect our property values.

The resistance you're seeing from Eastgate residents is a direct result of years of mistrust and questionable faith. It's true that you reap what you sow.

Barbra Chevalier

3/16/2017

I am a neighbor in the area by Hidden Village Apartments, and I am very concern about the plans to build a homeless low barrier shelter for man.

I work in Redmond by the YMCA shelter, near the library and this area is becoming a place were homeless people are hanging out.

I am concern by the neighborhood, is a place surrounded by parks, schools, family clinics. Bellevue College. Boys and Girls place, Elementary Schools in the are, East Gate Park and ride where hardworking women and man walk

by everyday because is needed; People feels safe around this area, and with a low barrier shelter for man around this area, it will stop being the safe place and will build up into a totally changed face of the area.

Please consider our concerns and respect our safety, our children need a safe place.

I really am concern, seriously concern.

Diana Moshe

3/16/2017

Hello,

I live in Crossroads and both of my children are in the Spanish Immersion program. My oldest son buses to Newport every day. Many high school students busing use this park and ride to transfer buses. I do not feel it would be appropriate for this kind of shelter to be placed there. There are many issues with this location and the safety of the neighborhood. Childcare at BC, Robinswood, all of the residences, the list goes on. Bellevue has many more appropriate locations away from kids and homes but still close to transportation. Please consider somewhere else and let's not have a tragedy become an I told you so.

Thank you,

Robyn Fisher

3/17/2017

Dear City Council,

I am a resident of Bellevue, and I am in disagreement with the project to build a low barrier man shelter on the Eastgate area, I feel a low barrier shelter in that area will turn the area in a very unsafe place, this area is residential, there are schools and parks, and this will put at risk the community.

Please consider my concern.

Sincerely

Arturo Santoyo

3/20/2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm a resident who lives near the proposed location of "Low Bearing" Homeless Men shelter.

Below is what I hope the city will consider before going forward with this.

1. The proposed site is way too close to Bellevue College and many other schools.

2. The proposed site is way too close to residential areas.

3. If the site is confirmed. "Low Bearing" will cause problems because of no background check or working with case managers..etc

I'm not sure who reads this but from one person to another, is this really a good idea? What if this proposed site is in your area? Why put a "Low Bearing" homeless men shelter so close to so many schools, parks and homes? I think we all need to do our parts in helping out the homeless but this proposal is just not acceptable because of the "Low Bearing" idea.

Thank you for taking your time to read this and please if you think i have been misinformed in any of my point please reply my email or connect me to someone who can listen to my opinions.

Best regards,

Art

3/20/2017

Dear Bellevue City Council members,

I am writing this note to you to express my strong disagreement with locating a permanent Low Barrier Men's Shelter at the Eastgate location.

It seems that in conjunction with city staff you are going rubber stamp the approval for this location.

In other areas of the country where these type of facilities have implemented with no screening and minimal rules for entry, there has been an increase in crime, trash)including discarded syringes) and lowered property values.

I have been a home owner and have paid taxes here for 26 years and I want my voice to be heard- along with the thousands of other citizens in the Lake hills/ Eastgate area that have expressed opposition to this location near homes and schools.

I want to be able to take my 3 year old grandson to a Mariners game and use the Park and Ride at Eastgate without encountering used hypodermic syringes and having to look over my shoulder to make sure we are safe.

So, I ask all of you on the council to strongly consider this question- are you willing to stake your own personal reputation when this does not work out according to your vision?

I feel you have one chance to get this right- if not your decision will negatively impact your hard working , tax paying residents for years to come.

Sincerely,

Greg Clark

Lake Hills

3/20/17

**Harmony At Madrona Park Homeowners Association
2680 - 139th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98005**

At the March 15, 2017 Annual Meeting of Harmony at Madrona Park Homeowners Association (Harmony), the membership took a vote that resulted in unanimous **No Confidence** in the process by which the City selected Eastgate (14350 SE Eastgate Way) for the permanent low barrier men's homeless shelter.

We request the Council to direct City staff to **re-evaluate the site selection and perform proper due diligence to ensure accurate analyses and conclusion**. This is needed because the selection process that the City used was flawed and ignored existing residents and stakeholders. Our concerns include the following:

Residents – Harmony, built in the late 1990's, consist of **116 townhomes** that are just minutes away by foot from the selected site (to be precise barely 500 yards). One of the City's siting criteria is "Avoid residential area." The City's erroneously concluded "**NONE**" for residential area for the Eastgate site. By doing so, the City not only ignored Harmony but also our neighboring townhome communities: Seasons (48 units) and Sunset Ridge (71 units) – 235 units total. Some of these units are as close as within 200 yards of the shelter. Based on the City's own criteria Eastgate does not meet the requirement.

Safety/Crime – Harmony residents include retirees, single women, and families with young children. Our currently safe community enables children to play outside without fear and women to exercise/walk alone. Locating the permanent low barrier men's homeless shelter so close to our homes is reckless and endangers the residents' safety and quality of life.

Proximity to the Park & Ride – We recognize that accessibility to public transportation is an important consideration for the homeless, but that does not necessitate a major transit hub. Some Harmony residents purchased their homes because they are able to walk to catch the bus. Additionally, more than 1,600 commuters park their vehicles at the Park & Ride. For those that leave and/or return in the dark, the presence of mentally ill and substance abuse men would potentially jeopardize commuters' safety and vehicles.

Bellevue College (BC) Students – Many high school students attend BC under the Running Start Program. The 2016 Fall enrollment is 2,249. Most of these students take the bus and/or walk to BC. Additionally, once the construction of the dormitories is complete hundreds of international students will live on campus. These students' modes of transportation are by foot and bus.

Concentrating homeless men with mental illness, substance abuse, and social issues in the middle of highly residential area is not only irresponsible, it is grossly negligent.

We are extremely dismayed in the City's lack of transparency and disregard of existing taxpayers, residents, commuters, and students who would experience negative effects from this permanent shelter. Harmony support City's effort to help the homeless, but feels it is reckless to put others in harm's way while doing so.

Submitted by **Adam Anderson**,

3/21/2017

I am firmly opposed to the proposed men's shelter in Eastgate. If it weren't true, I would think the "planning" of this was from a bad movie. One that you yell at while watching!! The reasons against are so obvious and numerous, it's absurd an argument against is even needed. But, as Bellevue seems intent upon following the lead of Seattle, providing hand-outs and not hand-ups, I will perform my civic duty and voice the already obvious.

I have two views from which I will voice my opinion - one macro and one micro.

On a macro level, providing all material needs for those mentally ill and/or drug addicted without requiring anything in exchange is simply ENABLING. You can attempt to camouflage this with words like compassion and respect, but it is nothing more than large-scale enabling. There is no incentive for these men to get healthy when everything is provided for them. As an aside, we talk about lack of affordable housing as one cause of homelessness in our area, and our housing costs are extreme. But it is counter-intuitive to tax the very community living in the area of extremely expensive housing in order to support and enable those who are homeless.

On a micro level, SAFETY, SAFETY, SAFETY! Near a community college where 50% of those attending are young females? Near a park and ride where commuters are exiting and entering vehicles early in the morning and after a long day's work? Near a transit center where people young and old are waiting for the bus, and walking to and from the bus stop?

In addition, we are on the edge of Seattle, and all one has to do is look around to see that we are impacted by Seattle's free- for-all policies of dealing with the homeless. If you think that building this structure, again requiring nothing from those being "helped" other than to act nice, will prevent Bellevue from becoming Seattle you are sadly mistaken. This is no different than a permanent Tent City, just fancied up, Bellevue style.

I urge you to reconsider this. I have two daughters who will be attending BC next year. How safe would you feel having your daughters attending school in walking distance from this low-barrier shelter?

I look forward to a response.

Thank you,
Kelly Adcox

3/23/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Regards,
Jeetu

3/23/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Thanks,
Steven

3/23/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Sincerely

Bozena Lloyd

3/23/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

-- Ilia Gilderman

3/23/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Huseyin Koyun

3/23/2017

Dear council members,

The location for the proposed low barrier men's shelter at Eastgate is next to preschools, college and P&R. It is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Sincerely,

-Weiyu Zhu

3/23/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and the park and ride is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Best regards,

Barb Lisaius

3/23/2017

Council members:

As a Bellevue resident and US citizen, I strongly oppose the proposed low barrier men's shelter in Eastgate. The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is stupid and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. I am very angry on your proposal. If you use your taxpayer's money to hurt your taxpayer in this way, you need to step down!!

Yours,

Jianjun Xu

3/23/2017

Council members,

The proposed Eastgate location for the low barrier men's shelter is next to the preschools, a college, homes and a P&R. This is entirely inappropriate and will put our citizens in the area at unnecessary risk.

The council needs to abandon this idea. Please move on to other sites that are better suited for the low barrier homeless population. Shelters of this nature have no place in or near residential neighborhoods.

Ann Marie Clark

3/23/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk.

The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Pasha Glozman,

Somerset resident, Bellevue College parent.

3/23/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R as well as residential areas with families is an inappropriate site and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Every document and study available shows the detrimental impact this site will have including, but not limited to property crimes, as well as crimes against the residential families and associated areas. Where is the care and concern for the residents in nearby neighborhoods that pay their taxes, and work hard to be able to live in Bellevue? Why are our concerns being ignored?

Please think of the people you have put at risk when you make this decision to choose this site for a "low barrier homeless shelter"! What if it was your daughter or son that was a victim of YOUR decision to disregard all the data against putting a shelter in this site. Will you be there to comfort those victims that you ignored...will you pay for their care when something terrible happens because of your deceptive decision to put them in harm's way? Will the City be sued when such an action happens?

Thank you,

Carol Janssen

3/23/2017

Dear Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Thanks!

Hao

3/23/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

regards,
Changhua Wu

3/23/2017

Hello council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Regards,
Gaoxiang Xu
Resident of Bellevue

3/23/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Cheers,
Aniket Shah

3/23/2017

Dear Council members,

I am strongly opposed to the current plans of establishing a men's shelter in Eastgate. The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population. The shelter should be established, but at another site -- away from residential areas and in a place where police can easily monitor the situation. Please listen to the residents who will be affected by this decision.

Thank you for considering my comments,
Anton Arkhipov.

3/23/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

I'm very disappointed in the deceptive way the council has approached this. I am a 30 year resident of Bellevue and I have watched our city go downhill against citizens and for those with money who are developing and can payoff providing according to codes.

My church is involved with housing the homeless monthly but this isn't anything resembling that effort.

Sincerely disappointed,
Susan Schlatter
Spirtridge

3/23/2017

Council members,

In order to keep the community and children safe, please reconsider a different location for the low barrier men's shelter.

Thank you,

Yen Le

3/23/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population. My level of opposition to this is 100%. My opposition absolutely extends to communications and conversations I have with my personal and professional relationships and is an absolute pivot point for how I will vote and encourage others to vote.

Thank you,

Nathan Hoff

Somerset

3/23/2017

Dear Council members,

I am strongly opposed to the current plans of establishing a men's shelter in Eastgate. The location for the low barrier men's shelter is next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population. The shelter should be established, but at another site -- away from residential areas and in a place where police can easily monitor the situation. Please listen to the residents who will be affected by this decision.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Ying yin

Resident of east gate area

3/23/2017

Council members,

I'm opposed to the low barrier men's shelter in Eastgate. The proposed location for the shelter raises a number of concerns:

1. Per section 5 of FAQ - Site Location ([FAQ - Site Location](#)) one of the factors taken into consideration for selecting the Eastside Men's Shelter is avoiding single family residential areas. The fact that town home condos occupied by hundreds of families many with young children are located within a few hundred feet of the proposed facility should be considered in the selection of the site.
2. Impact of property value. Eastgate is a prosper neighborhoods and without any doubt addition of the shelter is going to have adverse impact on property value. Per [realtor.com](#) homeless shelter can drag down property values by 12% ([The Neighborhood Features That Drag Down Your Home Value](#))
3. The proposed shelter, will be a low barrier shelter and will accommodate people with mental health, addiction and sex offenses. In addition to our concerns for the safety of the residents of the neighborhood, we are concerned for the safety of the students of Bellevue College. Every year more

than 30,000 students, majority female and as young as 16 years of age enroll in Bellevue College which is located within a few hundred feet of the proposed site. We believe such a close proximity puts the safety of the students at risk.

Mikalai Panasiuk
Bellevue, WA

3/23/2017

To all our members of the Bellevue City Council:

I am a resident of Wildridge condominiums which is located in a lovely area of Eastgate. We have enjoyed a beautiful park close to us where children walk their dogs and play with their families feeling safety and pleasure in a neighborhood that has provided that without worry.

Now, however, we feel this could change with the council's plan to build a low barrier men's shelter in Eastgate. The location for the shelter next to pre-schools, college, and Park and Ride is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites better suited for the low barrier homeless population.

With sincere concern,
Barbara Humberstone

3/23/2017

Dear Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk.

Council Members, Please continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Sincerely,

Nillofur Jasani

3/23/2017

Council members,

I am opposed to any type of homeless men's shelter in the Eastgate location. The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

My daughter attends Bellevue College and crimes have happened before there. It is hard enough to get from the parking to the classes without feeling insecure. Adding the Shelter will only increase this fear.

Regards,

Lisa Berlin

Resident College Hill neighborhood

3/23/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, Bellevue college and the Eastgate Park & Ride is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Thank you,
A.J. Schwab, registered voter

3/23/2017

Good Morning Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

I just cannot see any upside of having this shelter in a residential area.

Please continue to search for a **FAR** more appropriate site to help these people in need.

Sincerely,
Brendan Mullan

3/23/2017

Dear Council,

I am distressed that you are taking so much criticism for supporting the proposed shelter. People are fearful and now there is some data published that is making them more fearful. Please refute the data on Change.org and continue in your plans to rezone and build this shelter. I am a volunteer with CFH and have supported them for over 10 years.

This email is to support the proposed Homeless Shelter at the Eastgate location. These men need a place to sleep even if some of them are sex offenders, drug addicts, or have criminal backgrounds. Many of them are just unfortunate due to divorce, unemployment, or illness.

 Cheryl Jurrus

3/23/2017

Bellevue City Council,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. You have not done your due diligence, and I am shocked at the lack of concern for the homeowners and residents in this area that will be impacted by this shelter. You have hidden facts pertaining to the choice of this site. There is a considerable lack of transparency in this choice. The Bellevue City Council need to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Carol Dearth

3/23/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Heidi Ruff

3/24/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and Eastgate Park and Ride is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

I also do not appreciate the manner in which the city has tried to do this - with deception and lack of transparency. You are betraying the very citizens that you profess to serve. Please listen to your Bellevue citizens who will be most affected by this poor decision. The overwhelming body of research and evidence showing that this site is a poor choice (and not even a legal choice) is available to help guide your decision. Pay attention to this important information.

Thank you,

Stephanie Hauge

S. Bellevue resident

Eastgate Park and Ride daily commuter

3/24/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Respectfully,

Kendra Tripp

3/24/2017

Council Members,

I am a 15+ year resident of Bellevue. I live at 1883 145th Place SE, walking distance from the proposed shelter location. I have several objections to the proposed site location based on my professional background. My first career was in the United States Navy where my final job was Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe so I know complete staff work. My second career was as a senior engineering manager at The Boeing Company so I understand the process required to make choices between differing alternatives via the Trade Study process..

After reviewing the information available on the council web site, there are several reasons for which I consider the Council's efforts to be incomplete and inadequate staff work.

- First, the review of security implications of siting a low barrier homeless shelter are totally inadequate. While there are descriptions of the crime rate in the area of the current homeless shelter, they are described as incomplete. The security discussions have been focused solely on the security of residents and staff, not expanded to include the surrounding community. When problem residents are evicted from the location, where do you think they will go? They will end up in the nooks and crannies of the surrounding communities where families reside and where policing will be much more difficult. The security issue when dealing with drug users and known sex offenders must be thoroughly addressed if Bellevue is to fulfill its responsibilities to its residents.
- There has been only one location considered for the proposed site when the reality is that this is a decision that will impact the City of Bellevue for the indefinite future. The city is growing and there are multiple options available for locating this shelter. Why has only one site been considered? Alternative locations to Eastgate

could be the existing Bellevue homeless shelter location, the Spring District and available land on Bellevue's downtown city hall property; others could be identified with minimal staff work.

- The reasons cited for Eastgate being an "ideal" location for this facility include availability of cost free land, a lighted area, nearness to regional transportation and health care. Seriously, these are the only considerations in such a critical decision? And there is no weighting of each of the potential considerations so that the best balance between potential considerations is achieved.
 - What about security to the surrounding area?
 - What about the cost to adequately police the facility and surrounding area?
 - What about the nearness to schools?
 - What about localized migration of evicted residents?
 - What about the long-term estimate of the cost to the city to maintain this facility? Once this facility has started, it will be an indefinite cost to the city, likely one that will grow annually How will the city deal with additional services required by this group of residents and what will be the cost of those services?
- As best as I can determine from information available on the city's web site, the Council agreed to develop this facility without community input. What other alternatives to deal with this problem were considered? Would it not be more cost-effective to take a regional perspective and have homeless dealt with where there is already a stream of services in place? Seattle has an on-going effort an effort that appears poised to grow, where multiple services and staff are currently available and prepared to deal with the homeless. Cost-free transportation to Seattle with an annual donation of the amount Bellevue is planning to dedicate to this facility to the Seattle effort would place these people in an area where the density of services are available to meet their needs, rather than beginning down a road that will inevitably lead to developing duplicative services as currently exist in Seattle at exorbitant cost to the residents of Bellevue.

I am not opposed to the concept of a homeless shelter in Bellevue, even at the Eastgate location, but I am opposed to the City Council making important decisions based on inadequate staff work. The residents of the city should expect discussion of the factors and weighting of individual factors impacting the location selection be communicated, vetted and understood. The public conversation must go beyond the need to address the issue to include the specific factors that are to be considered and weighting of these factors that are part and parcel to actually doing something about the issue. Alternatives must be developed and considered so that the City makes the best long-term decision for the city, as once you commit to a way forward the funding stream is not easily turned off. I am asking that you do the work required to make a transparent solid decision that the residents of the City of Bellevue will accept, be proud of and willing to financially support for the indefinite future.

Randolph S. Dearth

3/24/2017

Dear Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Andrei Kiselyov

3/24/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Paul Zu

3/24/2017

Dear Council Members,

I would like to register my opposition to the addition of a new low-barrier men's shelter in the proposed Eastgate location. As a mother of girls, I fear that this shelter could put my children at risk, as well as other girls and women who are attending schools in the area (namely the preschool and Bellevue College). As elected officials, you must protect the citizens of Bellevue and with the location of this men's shelter, you cannot guarantee our safety. This is an unnecessary risk for our community. The council needs to study and research other sites as the Eastgate location is unacceptable.

Sincerely,

Kelli Lewis

3/24/2017

Hi, Council members:

I am writing this email to express my concern over the low barrier men's shelter next to the Eastgate P&R.

This location is next to the preschools, college and P&R and is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Thanks,

Carol Zhang

3/24/2017

Dear Counsel members:

Please do not harm the interests of hard working, tax paying citizens and businesses around Eastgate in an attempt to improve life for the unfortunate homeless segment of the population.

J. F. Gaston

Bellevue

3/24/2017

A LOW BARRIER men's shelter is not appropriate for the location at Eastgate, directly next to a family neighborhood community and young college students. A LOW BARRIER shelter is guaranteed to result in unsafe conditions for children, young adults, and commuters.

Katie Laureano

3/24/2017

Council members,

I have a big concern about the low barrier men's shelter in Eastgate.

The location for the low barrier men's shelter is inappropriate because it is next to the preschools, college, and P&R. This will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

-- Zhao Rui

3/24/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Ernie Moffet

3/24/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk.

Bellevue College proximity is a very serious concern. Lots of young student often have to walk to the campus and take public transport. The classes are often in the evenings. A significant population of students are young people from other countries who may not have the appropriate exposure to our environment to understand risks/dangers of potential crimes introduced through such a shelter being in close proximity.

I urge you to consider the potential risk to our young students at Bellevue College. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Thanks.

Rafat Naqvi

3/24/2017

Mayor and city council,

This is totally unacceptable. I am finding out how some of you are conducting business in this city. And I don't approve. STOP IT NOW.

You are trying to foist this project onto us and you have taken very good care of your developer friend in the Spring district.

This is not acceptable.

STOP IT NOW

There is more we are finding out about. You haven't been honest about crime rates near shelters. You have been fooling us.

STOP IT NOW

You say that the Bellevue police are good with this. I recently spoke to Bellevue police officers and they are not ok with it.

STOP IT NOW.

There is more. Much more so stop it now before you are shamed. You know who you are. And now so do we.

STOP IT NOW.

Joy Paltiel

3/24/2017

Dear Council Members,

I would like to register my opposition to the addition of a new low-barrier men's shelter in the proposed Eastgate location. It's way too close to schools (preschool and college), neighborhood homes and apartments and the high-traffic Park and Ride - all places with vulnerable populations that would be put at unnecessary higher risk with this addition.

The council needs to continue to investigate, looking for other options that have less negative impacts.

Happy to talk further, and thanks for taking my thoughts into consideration.

Chad Lewis

3/24/2017

Attention,

I am against the proposed shelter in the Eastgate Neighborhood. It is my opinion that where you are proposing this facility, significant adverse impacts to the current safety levels are likely to occur. (in the area noted below).

The proposed shelter location falls within a network of sidewalks and paths which overlays a series of heavily forested woodlands and parks integrated into the adjacent neighborhoods and schools. All this occurs within a half mile radius. That distance is about a five minute walk to the end of the radius.

Please consider and recommend other more appropriate locations (where you can quantify impacts and potential mitigative measures) for everyone in the community to discuss openly and in a transparent manner.

Respectfully,

Marty Zollner

3/24/2017

Bellevue City Council,

I'd like to express my concern about the proposed men's homeless shelter, which is proposed to be built next to Bellevue College. I'm a student, and from my perspective, I would encourage you to not build the homeless shelter next to a college. I'm told the shelter will be "low barrier," which means drug addicts will be able to stay in the shelter. Because of the way drugs affect a person's brain, people do not do things "in their right mind" when they are drugged. And as a female student, I don't feel comfortable with the idea of having a larger possibility of men who are addicted to drugs being near where a place where there will be many young girls studying.

I would ask that you reconsider building this homeless shelter near Bellevue College.

Sincerely,
Jesse King

3/24/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

I am concerned about the safety of my child and my family who take walks in Bellevue College and utilize P&R early in the morning to get to work.

I am also concerned about the safety of those students in Bellevue College.

I am totally against low barrier men's shelter in Eastgate!

Wendy Myers

3/24/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Regards,

Thomas Kim

3/24/2017

Hi Council members,

I'm a resident near the Bellevue College. The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Thanks,

Mi

3/24/2017

Council members, The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Furthermore I am appalled at the mayor's flippant dismissal of the online petition I signed. I most definitely knew what I was signing!

Elections are a few short months away. If you intend to remain on the council you will need to do a better job of informing and involving your constituents on important decisions such as the permanent low barrier men's shelter being planned out of accordance with the cities own zoning rules.

Thank you,

Therese McLain

Robinswood neighborhood

3/24/2017

Dear Council members,

I am very opposed to Bellevue's plan for having a low barrier men's shelter in the Eastgate area. I have lived in Lake Hills for 29 years, and this is the worst potential idea that I have seen by Bellevue City Council in all of those years.

Both the Park and Ride and Bellevue College are extremely vulnerable in being so close to the proposed shelter. The vast majority of homeless drug addicts do not have jobs or stable income. They steal for a living. Siting a shelter that serves this population next to the Park and Ride is an insane idea. Bellevue College students, particularly young women, would be put at grave risk, especially while walking in the dark. **What about Running Start students? Would you want your 16-year old daughter to attend classes at Bellevue College if the shelter were next door?**

Our family, and most of our neighbors, are not anti-shelter. We support many local organizations that provide for the homeless, and would welcome a family or women's shelter. But a low barrier men's shelter absolutely does not belong in Eastgate or any other residential neighborhood.

The citizens of Bellevue by and large are very angry about this proposal, and will very definitely hold the city and every council member accountable if a decision is made to move forward with the project.

Sincerely,

Marcia C. Dillon

3/24/2017

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to you to strongly express my opposition to the construction of the low-barrier Eastside Men's Shelter at the proposed Eastgate site where it would be located in close proximity to elementary and middle schools, the Bellevue College campus, single family residences with young children, and community parks with wooded areas accessible for homeless loitering, drug use, and potentially violent crime. The top priority of the Bellevue City Council needs to be the safety and well-being of our kids and families, as well as the security of our homes. A low-barrier men's shelter, as described in the FAQ, does not belong in a residential neighborhood or within walking distance from schools and

parcs. I have no doubt that if this shelter is located in the proposed location, home robberies, car prowling, homeless loitering in our parks and green spaces, drug activity, and feasibly violent crime will increase in our neighborhoods. This has been shown to be the case in other instances where homeless men’s shelters have been located close to residential areas, including two temporary shelter sites in Bellevue as shown in the graph below:

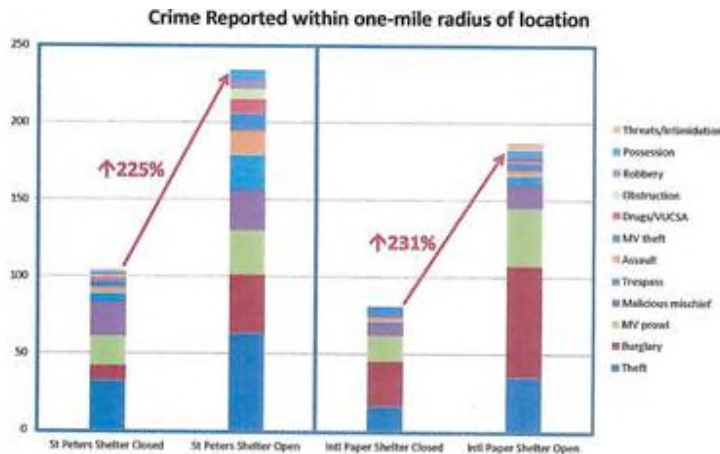


Chart is built based on data provided by City of Bellevue relative to Temporary Homeless Shelter locations. Shelters open between Nov 1 and April 30 & close between May 1 and October 31

1. St. Peter's United Methodist Church, 17222 NE 8th St, Bellevue, WA 98008, from 2011 to 2013 (2 seasons)
2. International Paper, 1899 120th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA 98005, from 2013 to 2016 (3 seasons)

I strongly believe that the City Council should scrap the current plan and start from the drawing board, researching more deeply other, more appropriate sites, such as Lincoln Center where the temporary shelter is now located, along auto row. The Lincoln Center site is safely removed from residential areas, schools, and parks and green spaces.

Furthermore, if the Spring District Development area is not considered an appropriate site for the low-barrier men’s shelter by City Council for the reason of interfering with the development intent of the Spring District, then SURELY the Eastgate site is similarly not an appropriate site for the same exact reasons; namely, because such a facility would severely negatively impact the development intent of the Eastgate corridor as a vibrant hub for business, retail, and residential development.

Please do what I believe you know in your hearts is the right thing to do and vote “No” to having this low-barrier men’s shelter located at the Eastgate site. We MUST help the homeless who want to get back on their feet; who want to find work and a permanent home; and who want to be healthy, contributing members of society. We also MUST protect the low-to-middle income citizens and families of this city who moved to this particular part of Bellevue because it is the most affordable part of this city. We have moved here because we believed that this was a place where we could raise our families in a beautiful, safe area with excellent schools, and beautiful parks and open spaces where our children could flourish. Introducing a low-barrier men’s homeless shelter into the immediate area is JUST NOT RIGHT, and in direct opposition to the parameters put in place to choose an appropriate shelter site.

Sincerely,
Ellen Weiss

3/25/2017

Council members,

Please afford me the courtesy of explaining why John Stokes has refused to accept the Bellevue residents' petition against siting the men's low barrier shelter in Eastgate.

Please clearly and transparently detail his reasons for doing so.

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population and openly share the findings of all studies conducted on siting this low barrier men's shelter in Eastgate with the residents and taxpayers of this city.

Bellevue resident and taxpayer,

MaryBeth John

MAR 24, 2017 — Eastside Residents Council (ERC) was granted access to limited internal government communications related to the low barrier shelter via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). On Monday, ERC presented to the council a compendium of specific memos containing information that was not disclosed to the stakeholders.

1. Some of the King County and Bellevue City council members were biased towards the Eastgate location from an early stage in the site planning process.
2. The notes reveal crime and nuisances caused by CFH shelter at St. Peter's church - break-ins, theft, loitering, noise, and used needles left in parking lots. The neighborhood did not want CFH shelter to return to the church. However, the proponents kept citing statistics no crime increase in the general area of the shelter.
3. The internal Bellevue police department memo shows concerns about the safety of the Bellevue college students, given the history of rape and murder of a college student by a mentally ill homeless man near the proposed Eastgate site. CFH Director of Shelter Services, Dwight Jackson also had concerns about the location not having a buffer between the shelter and college and surrounding development. The notes also include impacts like P&R car prowl, pan handling, aggressive behavior, noise and substance abuse.
4. Notes about property values decreasing due to increase in un-sheltered homeless population and RV campers to receive services at the homeless shelter area.
5. Notes also confirm the fact that churches hosting the rotating men's shelter have specifically rejected a CFH low-barrier type shelter on their property. Therefore, the church shelter had restrictions for homeless men with sex offenses, mental illness, violent criminal felonies.
6. The public council meeting notes and ERC research found that Eastgate site is not currently zoned to house a low barrier homeless shelter or 'Transient Housing' due to several factors. The city would have to work on several code changes and mitigation strategies for development envisioned under Transit Oriented Development (TOD) to pursue the shelter at this site.

3/25/2017

Dear Mike,

I'm speaking only for myself, as a resident of Spiritwood / Robinswood for 43 years & an opponent of the proposed low-barrier homeless shelter at Eastgate. Both "sides" in this debate know that good people can & do often disagree & that we need to help our homeless population in a way that maximizes the success of the effort. *I honestly believe there's a constructive "Path Forward," even after so many of us have read the revelations in the City's official documents acquired by our ERC leadership via FOIA.* * In offering the following Proposal, I'm betting that the thousands of us opposed to the Eastgate shelter would not only be relieved, but most grateful to you for supporting the "Path-Forward" proposal below!

"PATH-FORWARD" -- Proposal & Deadlines:

ASAP-- Publicize/Announce that "in the spirit of cooperation with the community," Council withdraws the existing proposal for the Eastgate's homeless shelter.

ASAP-- Council announces plans to form a work-group, including appropriate City, tech, & legal staff, plus selected residents from Bellevue, including 2 from our opposition group, & a CFH rep (hopefully David Boling). Let's be honest & *quietly* acknowledge recommendations by professionals that low-barrier shelters do not belong near residences & young people.

Deadline: "withdrawal announcement"- no later than the Council meeting- April 3, 2017.

Personal Recommendations – I hope you find these useful:

Work-group should pre-define specific metrics for measuring “success” -- one metric for success with homeless clients AND another metric for success for the surrounding community during & after x years of facility operation.

Work-group should then *research* existing men’s programs here & nationally that meet or exceed BOTH pre-defined metrics.

NOTE: A homeless program should not negatively impact the safety, quality of life, or resale values in its neighboring community! To "sell" your recommended program to a community, it's important to show evidence-based data that "success" with homeless men need not come at the expense of thousands of constituents surrounding it.

Work-group identifies 1 (or 2) site on the Eastside most similar to "successful" location of “successful” models found nationally.

Invite 1-2 stakeholders from the potential local community to discuss your new draft proposal, so concerns can be addressed, before releasing any “proposal.”

I'm confident that substituting these “Path Forward” steps for the current Eastgate proposal would be gratefully received by the community in general & help re-establish community trust in our Council AND this process moving forward. We know you face many powerful pressures daily, but I still believe that together we can find a way to help our homeless without sacrificing an entire community of thousands.

* 12 binders of documents (aka “The Compendium”) obtained through FOIA, were delivered to the following City staff at Council meeting on 3/6/17: each Council member, Lori Riordan, Brad Miyake, & City Clerk.

Mike, I'm sending this email to each Council member, Mayor & Dep Mayor, Brad, & Lori. Thank you for whatever you can do to help.

Cheryl Zettler

3/25/2017

Hello Council and Mr. Huentelman,

I’ve written the Council already about this topic and am once again expressing my continued very strong opposition to locating a low barrier men’s homeless shelter anywhere in Eastgate, including the current proposed location adjacent to the P&R, BC, and residences.

I am astonished and disgusted by the Council’s and especially the Mayor’s deception and cover-up of the truths that you know about the shelter, but prevented your non-developer and non-business constituents—the residents of Eastgate, users of the P&R, students at BC—from knowing. I am indebted to the incredible efforts of the dedicated residents who doggedly pursued the truth, especially via the FOIA, and finally uncovered the truth.

I among many residents will not be voting for any of you in upcoming elections. You severed our trust in our city government. You do not deserve to lead Bellevue.

Sincerely,

Leslie Geller

3/25/2017

Council members,

The Eastgate location for the low barrier men's shelter is not appropriate. It not only will be next to the preschools, college and P&R, but also is within walking distance to elementary school and middle school. It will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. As any parents, I sure want all students study and live in a safe environment. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Thank you!

Xiting Phillips, a registered voter.

3/25/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Thank you,

Yvonne Sauter

3/25/2017

Councilmembers,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Please do not tarnish our city's or your personal reputations by proceeding forward with this proposal for the low barrier men's shelter in Eastgate.

Regards,

Michael Arao

3/26/2017

Hi Council Members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Thanks,

Benson

3/26/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Sue Harms

3/26/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and Park and Ride is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites - those that are genuinely suited for the low barrier homeless population.

As an employee in the P & R area for ten years, I was well aware of the news of the rape and murder of a college student by a mentally ill homeless man near that area. I'm told there is an internal Bellevue police department memo that shows concerns about the safety of the Bellevue College students. The last thing thousands of commuters, nearby residents, students and employees need is to have to work about a low barrier men's shelter at that area.

As a resident in this area, I am concerned that employees of the City of Bellevue are ignoring the very valid concerns of our citizens. They need to work harder to find a good, safer location.

Sincerely,
Eveline Piersma

3/26/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

I have 7 year old daughter, this men's shelter would put her into great danger. I strongly oppose to this shelter in Eastgate

Thanks
Jian Lin

3/26/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

I have 7 year old daughter, this men's shelter would put her into great danger. I strongly oppose to this shelter in Eastgate

Thanks
Yang Zhang

3/26/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

I work near the proposed location and this men's shelter would put me into great danger. I strongly oppose to this shelter in Eastgate

Thanks,
david kong

3/27/2017

For all the goodness that CFH might bring, they CANNOT do a thing about the adult males who do not want help. These are the guys I'm afraid of- the ones who don't want to be in the other homeless shelters because RULES would have to be followed- the kind of criminal element that this shelter will most definitely attract- the kind of adult male that a church has yet to welcome into their Sunday School lessons with the little ones.

There are NO rules under a low barrier shelter. Come and go as you please. Show up drunk, high, whatever. Criminals. Sex offenders. And if sited at the Eastgate location, these guys will be within easy walking distance of several schools, as well as adjacent to Bellevue College where there will be plenty of young juicy coeds to prey on. It will be next to a Park and Ride that many adults women will use in winter, going to and coming home from work in the dark. These men won't have to go far to cause some harm to some innocent child, woman, or man.

I want to stress this point- I am not against homeless people who are wanting to improve their lives. YES!- let's help them. I am not against helping drug addicts get rehabilitated. YES!- let's help them. I am most certainly not against

caring for and helping the mentally ill. YES!- by all means, let's help them. Let's help them all in a MEANINGFUL way. Since when in all of time has it EVER been a good idea to let people do whatever they want to do? As for my personal experiences and observations, I have the following comment. If we are going to give drug addicts a "safe place" to inject drugs, can we also give children a "safe place" to play? My children are grown but my heart aches for my neighbors who are just starting their families. Why will we not provide their children a "safe place" to play that is free of hypodermic needles? Why will we not give them the same lovely environment we enjoyed? My adult friends will not walk alone in some parks of Bellevue now, fearing for their safety. In this last year, my husband and I have been out walking and many times have run across undesirable situations...in the paths along the blueberry fields off 148th, among the trees north of Lake Hills Demonstration Garden, in the woods near BC; my husband and son were out for a bike ride on a Bellevue bike path and had to circumvent the two drug addicts sitting with their paraphernalia in the middle of the path screaming obscenities at passersby. Just moments earlier, my husband wondered why the young couple he passed looked so scared and frazzled. Why is this couple being denied a "safe place" to take a stroll? All of these places are within an easy walk from the Eastgate location proposed for the low barrier homeless shelter. These places that have historically been places of peace will become downright dangerous with help from our city council members. I am against the SITING of this low barrier shelter ANYWHERE near innocent and vulnerable children, women and men.

I am certain that the majority of people who do support this location and CFH have not been out-and-about to see the reality of the situation that Bellevue has morphed into. These are the people who are in the mindset of "We need to help these people"(...EVEN IF those people refuse our help). It's an understandable sentiment. However, these supporters are the ones who do not know the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about the shelter that is proposed. These supporters do not know the truth because the COB has actively avoided letting the truth be known. Many of the supporters are under the impression that this shelter will be helping those who truly need it and want to better their situation. These supporters do not understand that this is a low barrier shelter with no rules, and this is quite obvious if you read the uninformed commentary carried on by those who post on Nextdoor. One writer says that he lets his 3-year old daughter play with the homeless at his church. I don't suppose that these are the sex offenders, are they now?

Throwing money at this issue will not solve it. Making it easy for people to make detrimental choices helps no one. It is detrimental to those who initially choose to make the bad choice, to their victims, to the city, and to society as a whole. If you can't find it in yourself to have empathy for a potential victim, maybe you CAN relate to the potential criminal who will not be able to resist the temptation set before him so kindly by the Bellevue City Council and others. Siting this facility at Eastgate will put a heavy burden on both sides.

Placing dangerous men in close proximity to innocent and vulnerable people is a criminal act and the City of Bellevue WILL BE that criminal.

It is despicable and deplorable that Bellevue City Council thinks that siting this low barrier homeless shelter at Eastgate is a fine solution. Unfortunately, it comes as no surprise that it's all about the money and the payoffs. Nothing else.

I USED TO love my city of Bellevue. It used to be such a wonderful place to be. So sad to see it go so bad so fast.

The Bellevue City Council values money and developers over sense, sensibility, and the safety of the law-abiding and tax paying citizens of Bellevue. Shame on you, and may karma see what you've become.

Mr. Stokes, what was your percentage of the payoff?

Susan Braun

3/27/2017

Dear Council Members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Thanks

Ricky Chan

3/27/2017



Share our past. Shape our future.

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellerson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jerry Gronfein, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Dagggingar, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barrat, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Alhedeff
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Cadiz
Alison Hendlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rozenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaeer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koon (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Meisels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Mayor Stokes and Council members,

My name is Rachel Senn. I am a 6th grader at Temple De Hirsch Sinai. Recently we have learned about the increasing number of homeless people in the Bellevue area. We have also learned about the Jewish customs that go along with homelessness. In Judaism, it is said that a person who does not give to a homeless man shall die, but one who does give to a homeless man shall live for ~~many~~ many more years. I hope that our society decides to build the ~~men's~~ homeless shelter and I urge you to vote Yes!

Sincerely,

Rachel
Rachel Senn

RECEIVED

FEB 27 2017

CITY COUNCIL



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsina.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 159th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellenson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jacyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jerry Gronfein, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barrat, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Alhadef
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaefer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Maisels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Dear Mayor Stokes and Councilmembers,

My name is Eli Chamberlain and I'm a 6th grader at Temple De Hirsch Sinai. People around Washington are living on the streets and hurting the community. "He who gives a coin to a poor man will receive 6 blessings, but he who encourages him with friendly words will receive 11." People should have a better home these people and get them back on their feet to Mens Shelter. Please vote YES on the permanent

Thank You

Eli Chamberlain



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellerson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jerry Gronfein, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barrat, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Alhadeff
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alyson Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melenie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaefer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis – Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi – Retired

Stanley Meisels 1968-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes and Councilmembers,

My name is Sophie Fischel, and I am a 6th grader at Temple De Hirsch Sinai. It breaks my heart to hear about the immense amount of homelessness in the King County area, and the Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing is a perfect idea. As a quote from a Jewish Text says "Any one who shuts his eye against charity is like one who worships idols." And by doing this project, would be doing what the quote says. So please, make a difference by doing this.

Thank you,

Sophie Fischel



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.8772
Bellevue Campus: 3650 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellenson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jerry Gronlein, Director of Finance

Officers
Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barral, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President
Jeff Teper

Trustees
Aaron Alhadeff
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Nelman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired
Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Sam 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired
Stanley Metzels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus
Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes and Councilmembers,
My name is Eli Poll. I am a 6th grader
at Temple De Hirsch Sinai. It is
dissappointing to see people without a
home on drives to school each day. Jewish
tradition, my religion, says that everyone
should give to charity, no matter what
condition you may be in. We need this
shelter in Bellvue and I urge you to
vote YES for it.

Thank you,

Eli



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
 Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
 Bellevue Campus: 3650 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellenson, Assistant Rabbi & Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jerry Gronlein, Director of Finance

Officers
Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barrat, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President
Jeff Teper

Trustees
Aaron Alhadeff
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Herdlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Mirsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovatz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired
Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Star 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired
Stanley Meisels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus
Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes and councilmembers,

My name is Jadyyn Lewis, I am a 6th grader at Temple De Hirsh Sinai and Issaquah middle school. My heart breaks watch the homeless population grow. Jewish Tradition, my religion teaches "Any one who shuts his eye against charity is like one who worships idols". You should go through with your idea of building a homeless shelter near the eastgate area. Don't forget about the ones in need.

Sincerely,
 Jadyyn Lewis



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellerson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jerry Gronlein, Director of Finance

Offices

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barrat, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Alhadeff
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1908
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Meisels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1983-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes and Councilmembers,
My name is Isabella Jewell. I am a 6th grader at Temple De Hirsch Sinai and I go to Pine Lake middle school. I can't stand to see so many people homeless it makes me so sad. If a poor man requests money from you and you have nothing to give him speak to him consolingly - Rambam Mishneh Torah "Gifts to the Poor". I think they need anything they can get so the shelter is a good idea. Please vote yes.

Thank you,

Isabella

Jewell



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, *Senior Rabbi*
Aaron C. Meyer, *Associate Rabbi*
Micah Elienson, *Assistant Rabbi & Director of Congregational Learning*
Jaclyn Cohen, *Assistant Rabbi*
Lisa D. Horowitz, *Executive Director*
Jamy Gronfein, *Director of Finance*

Officers

Don Loeb, *President*
Grant Degginger, *President-Elect*
Lisa Bridge, *Secretary*
Neil Weinstein, *Treasurer*
Nick Barrat, *Vice President*
Stephanie Carmel, *Vice President*
Betsy Cohen, *Vice President*
Elizabeth Goertzel, *Vice President*

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Alhadeff
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dori Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Meisels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes and Council Members,

My name is Olivia Sherman and I am a 6th grader at chinook middle school.

I feel bad for people who are homeless and want to ~~help~~ help. Jewish tradition, my religion, teaches that anyone who turns aside from those in need, turns away from the best they can be. I think there should be a shelter that helps stop drug addictions and keep them warm and safe. Please help these people.

Sincerely,
Olivia

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellerson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jery Gronfein, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barrat, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Alhadef
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Morica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Bret Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1889-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1905-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Meisels 1968-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes & Councilmembers,
My name is Jonathan Lotzkar

I am a 6th grader at Temple De Hirsch Sinai, being Jewish

I know there are many Jewish texts about giving/homelessness

Such as, Midrash in Me'il Zecharah, and Rambam, Mishneh Torah. Its

heart breaking to see the amount of homelessness in Seattle rising

and I think it would mean a lot to me and the community if you vote yes on the

~~permanent~~ permanent men's homeless shelter.

Sincerely, Jonathan Lotz



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Moyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellenson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jerry Granfein, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Baratt, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Ahadef
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Ceditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Masels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes and Councilmembers,
My name is Ethan Arensberg, I am in 6th grade and go to Temple De Hirsch Sinai. I am a boy scout and in scouts we help homelessness. As Isaac said in Shabbat 757b, "he who gives a coin to a poor man is rewarded 6 blessings but he who encourages him with friendly words is rewarded with eleven". That means in my opinion is he who gives to a person who is homeless is rewarded with pride, if we give the homeless a shelter we will feel good that they are safe and warm. Please vote yes for the Eastgate homeless shelter.



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellenson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jerry Gronlein, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barrat, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Alhadef
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Ailson Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Mesels 1986-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes and council members,
My name is Ethan Jackson, and I go to Maywood Middle school. It makes me sad that we have not chosen to help homeless people living on the street. These are people that have lost everything. Don't you think these people want a home too? So it is our job to help these people. There is a wheel which revolves in this world. Please, vote YES on the permanent men's shelter near Eastgate Neighborhood.

Thank you,

Ethan Jackson



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellenson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jerry Gronlein, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barak, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Alhadeff
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Nelman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Metzels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1963-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Dear Mayor Stokes and Council-
members,
My name is Tabitha Peacock and
I go to Maywood Middle
School. I am devastated
because I feel that the number
of homeless people/families. Famil-
ies are growing too rapidly.
I feel that everyone on this
earth should have equal
rights, but we are not all
getting the rights we deserve.
I think we need to be
able to fulfill our daily needs.
we should build this ~~homeless~~
homeless shelter so that all
of the people that need
a home can have one.
we should all be able to
live the fullest life possible.

Love,

Tabitha Peacock



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellerson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jery Gronfein, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barral, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Alhadeff
Alyssa Botman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Marlene Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1908-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Meisels 1968-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes and Councilmembers,
My name is Jillian Feldman. I am a 6th grader at Temple De Hirsch Sinai. I live in Issaquah with my family and I think im pretty lucky to have a house, a lot of people arent so lucky. Losing a job, seeking expensive medical treatment, or bad choices. R. Isaac said, "He who gives a coin to a poor man is rewarded with six blessing. But he who encourages him with friendly words is rewarded with eleven." please vote yes to build a Shelter.

Thank you,

Jillian

February 20, 2017

Mayor Stokes and Councilmembers,

When I was nine, as my family was driving home from a Mariner's game, I remember seeing a man outside of a building sleeping on the concrete sidewalk, using a rock as his pillow. The next block over, I saw three people dressed in rags, leaning on each other under a very small blanket to sleep. I was beside myself and broke down crying to my parents exclaiming that it isn't fair: "How can this happen?" I asked. "How can they live like that? How do people just walk by, as if they don't exist? What's wrong with people? What's wrong with the world?!"

Considering current world affairs, I am sure you have asked these same questions. I ask you: When do humans learn to ignore and turn off what they instinctively know is right? At what age do people try finding every excuse as to why something morally right simply won't work?

We are not talking solving world-wide crises: ending world hunger, or creating world peace. No, we're talking about addressing a serious local problem that is about people reaching out to make others' lives better. We are talking about providing homeless folks in need, basic shelter-- protection and safety; access to resources; an address to write down when in need of medical attention. A place where people who regularly experience harsh isolation and feelings of being unwanted, unwelcomed, pitied, desperate, and hopeless, are finally welcomed into a community with the possibility of connecting with others without feeling like an outsider. A place that allows homeless people to begin to have the opportunities and resources we take for granted.

Contrary to some local opinion, people in such situations pose no threat to those of us who are fortunate enough to live in safe communities with ample resources. It is incumbent upon us to say 'yes' with open arms.

One of my favorite stories speaks of a child who is picking up starfish stranded by the retreating tide and throwing them back into the sea to save them. A man walks up to the child and exclaims: "This beach goes on for miles, and there are thousands and thousands of starfish. Your effort is futile; it doesn't make a difference!" The child looks at the starfish in his hand and throws it back into the water. "It made a difference to that one," the child says.

This story depicts a fundamental Jewish value. It is impossible to fix the world all at once. Yet we are required to do what we can—one day at a time, one person at a time, one action at a time. Judaism says: if you save a life, it's as if you've saved the world. By making this shelter, you are creating the inclusive, humane world you wish to see and be a part of. As a Jewish tenth grader from Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue, a permanent men's shelter is not just the right thing to do according to my Jewish values, it is our obvious human obligation.

Thank you for your time,

~Amalya Benhaim



TEMPLE De Hirsch Sinai

Share our past. Shape our future.

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellenson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jery Gronfain, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Baratt, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Alhadeff
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Scheer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Meisels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Mayor Stokes and council members,
My name is Noah Weinstein and I am a 10th grader at Temple De Hirsch Sinai. I believe that the homeless people in Bellevue deserve a home and I believe that they should have shelter. Losing a job, getting expensive medical treatment or even bad choices might cause homelessness. These people don't deserve the consequences. Please vote Yes on the permanent new shelter near east gate.

Thank you,

Noah
Weinstein



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsina.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellenson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jery Gronfein, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barrat, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Ahadoff
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alson Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis – Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1889-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi – Retired

Stanley Weisels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Brodar 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

MAYOR STOKES + COUNCIL MEMBERS,

My name is VERED SIROKA and I'm a 10th grader at Temple B'nai Torah. There are so many people in our city are suffering from homelessness and poverty. In my religion, Judaism, we believe everyone deserves a chance at protection and happiness, and these people deserve that. I URGE you to vote YES to build this new homeless shelter that people need! They need us!

Sincerely,

Vered S.



Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Elenson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jacyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jerry Gronfein, Director of Finance

Officers
Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barrat, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President
Jeff Teper

Trustees
Aaron Alhadeff
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzker
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired
Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired
Stanley Mersels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus
Lawrence N. Broder 1983-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Mayor Stokes and Council members,
"We think sometimes that poverty is
is only being hungry, naked and homeless.
The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and
uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must
start in our homes to remedy this kind of
poverty." ~ Mother Teresa

My name is Lilly Weir and I am
a 10th grader at Temple De Hirsch Sinai. Living
in this area I know I am privileged and
sheltered and realize others aren't. Realizing
this I feel we should do everything in our power
to help those in need. That's why I urge you
to vote YES on the permanent men's shelter.

Sincerely,
Lilly



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellenson, Assistant Rabbi & Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jerry Gronlein, Director of Finance

Officers
Don Loeb, President
Grant Degglinger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Baratz, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President
Jeff Teper

Trustees
Aaron Alhadeff
Alysa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzker
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired
Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired
Stanley Meisels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus
Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

~~Dear~~ Mayor STOKe and councilmembers
My name is Jacob Gerstman,
I go to Temple B'nai Torah ~~in~~
I wanted to talk about the
homeless problem in Bellevue.
In 15 I cannot vote but I
I could I would for the
permanent solution. Thank you

Sincerely
Jacob Gerstman



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellerson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jery Gronlein, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barrat, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Alhadef
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Weisels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes and Councilmembers,

My name is Benjamin Joel Holers Gross and I am a 10th grader at Temple de Hirsch Sinai. My father worked in homeless shelters when he first moved to Seattle. This gives me a unique view, and I truly know the importance that homeless shelters play in society. However, I know they can be controversial as well, especially in populated areas. As a class, we looked at many neighbors complaints, and either decided they were false or very minor. Helping the homeless society is one of the most important things we can focus on, especially with the horrible homeless problem we have in Seattle. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Vote yes.

Sincerely,
Ben



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellenson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jody Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jerry Gronfein, Director of Finance

Officers
Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barrat, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President
Jeff Teper

Trustees
Aaron Alhadeff
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired
Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

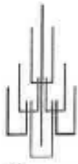
Associate Rabbi - Retired
Stanley Meisels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus
Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Dear Mayor Stokes and Council members,
My name is Spencer Clark, I am
a tenth grader at Mercer Island
High school and a member of
Temple De Hirsch Sinai. I am writing
with regards to the planned permanent
homeless men's shelter. I could not
bring more to vote yes on
this plan. Every person has
the right to shelter and food,
that is undeniable. Given the
current political climate, all
people must stick together
and work together. We must
help those in need and anyone
who has been put into an
unfortunate situation. Everyone
has their own special skills and
that they can contribute to
society. If you choose to
just no you will be
denying these poor people of
their potential.
Thank you kindly,
Spencer Clark



TEMPLE De Hirsch Sinai

Share our past. Shape our future.

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Elienson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jerry Gronfein, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barak, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Alhadef
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melenie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1889-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Meisels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Urgent

Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3650 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Dear Mayor Stokes, and Council members

My name is Ethan Schwartz. I am thankful for this chance you and the ~~Bellevue~~ Council members are giving me to have my voice heard. I am currently in 10th grade at Mercer Island high school. Over the past summers I have worked with a group called V.O.I.C.E to help others in need. It has always destroyed my heart that people have to be homeless. It is only though my religion and morals that I feel this way, although everyone should be upset at the pain people experience people are sadly not as lucky as you and me. In terms of need as a kid, in both school and your place of religious worship, you are taught to help others especially in their time of need. We must do everything in our power to help people who are struggling and restore them to their potential. I urge you to vote YES on this plan of a permanent men's shelter in Eastgate Neighborhood



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellenson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jery Grontfein, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barrat, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Ahadoff
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovelz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1889-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Meisels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes and Councilmembers,

My name is Sasha Poll and I am a tenth grader at Seattle Academy. I try to avidly volunteer in my community to make my community a better place. One of my favorite places to volunteer are homeless centers because I believe it makes the biggest difference. Nothing is more helpful than giving someone a place to sleep, food to eat, or a second chance. I beg you to consider voting towards the shelter.

Sincerely,
Sasha



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsina.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, *Senior Rabbi*
Aaron C. Meyer, *Associate Rabbi*
Micah Elienson, *Assistant Rabbi & Director of Congregational Learning*
Jaclyn Cohen, *Assistant Rabbi*
Lisa D. Horowitz, *Executive Director*
Jerry Gronstein, *Director of Finance*

Officers

Don Loeb, *President*
Grant Degginger, *President-Elect*
Lisa Bridge, *Secretary*
Neil Weinstein, *Treasurer*
Nick Barrat, *Vice President*
Stephanie Carmel, *Vice President*
Betsy Cohen, *Vice President*
Elizabeth Goertzel, *Vice President*

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Alhadeff
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Mirak
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Star 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Meisels 1968-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

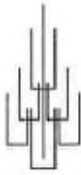
VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Dear Mayor Stokes,

My name is Jacob Beilinson and I have been to Temple De Hirsch Sinai for years now and I think to give back to the community we should build a homeless shelter. They may have done bad things in their life so they should be able to try and quit at this shelter. Also a place for them to live, everybody needs a roof over their heads. Even a poor man, as a subject of charity, should give charity.

from,
Jacob



TEMPLE De Hirsch Sinai

Share our past. Shape our future.

Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellenson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jery Granfein, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barnat, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Ahadeff
Alyssa Botman
Earl Caditz
Alson Handin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis – Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi – Retired

Stanley Masels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes and Council Members,
I am a 6th grader at Temple De
Hersch Sinai. My name is Mica Ruthfield,
and I recently transferred to this temple, and
we have talked about homelessness the
whole time I've been here. I live in
Shoreline, and I think there should be a
homeless shelter in every city, especially
big ones like Bellevue, which is where you
are considering putting a shelter. I encourage
you to vote YES on putting a shelter
by Issaquah and Bellevue because these
people could be our next government
officials, and I bet they would vote
in favor of a homeless shelter. "Human
beings are responsible for each other."

Thank you for reading my letter,

Mica J. Ruthfield

Mica J. Ruthfield



Main Contact: 206.323.6486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
 Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
 Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
 Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
 Micah Elenson, Assistant Rabbi &
 Director of Congregational Learning
 Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
 Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
 Jerry Gronfein, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
 Grant Degginger, President-Elect
 Lisa Bridge, Secretary
 Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
 Nick Barrat, Vice President
 Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
 Betsy Cohen, Vice President
 Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Alhadef
 Alyssa Bobman
 Earl Caditz
 Alison Handlin
 Michael Hirsch
 Myles Kahn
 Holly Levin
 Gordon Lotzkar
 Melanie Miller
 Laurie Minsk
 Monica Neiman
 Karen Ovetz
 Dan Rosenstein
 Alexis Rubenstein
 Josh Schaer
 Alan Sears
 Rachel Stoner
 Dawn Thomas
 Brett Waldbaum
 Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
 Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
 Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
 Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Meisels 1968-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

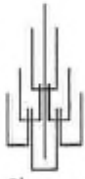
Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

MAYOR STOKES and Councilmembers,
 My name is Casey Feilds. I am a 6th grader at TDSH. It truly breaks my heart to see all of these homeless people on the streets suffering. I believe that we should help them by building a homeless shelter. Every person deserves the best treatment even if they are homeless. They are still just as important as everybody else. I hope you take my letter into consideration because it won't just help them but it will help the environment.

sincerely,
 Casey Feilds



TEMPLE De Hirsch Sinai

Share our past. Shape our future.

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Eliason, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jerry Gronlein, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barrai, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Alhadef
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Mylas Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Nelman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z"l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z"l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z"l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Melsels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

dear mayor ~~stokes~~ stokes and
Councilmembers,

my name is Abby
and I think you should build
that shelter. As R Hiyya said to
his ~~brother~~ wife "when a poor man
comes to the door give him food
so he will do the same to you"
and "Because a person is a
person nomatter how small.
I feel that it's important
for people in need to have
a place to live."

- Abby



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsina.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellenson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jacyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jerry Gronfein, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barrat, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Ahadell
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Meisels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

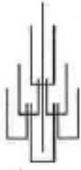
VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes & Council members,
My name is Sarah Butterklee & I am
a 6th grader at Temple De Hirsch Sinai.
I am stunned to see all the people
on the streets suffering being
homeless. As a Jewish tradition,
all people are people & we are
all equal. We are all in the image of
God, "Even a poor man a subject of
charity, should give charity." It's a
great opportunity for the homeless
people to have a safe environment
to have a second chance. I urge
you to vote YES on the plan of making
a permanent mens shelter near the
Eastgate neighborhood in Bellevue.
People need a chance to start over
in a home. Please don't decline
the people in need.

Sincerely,

Sarah Butterklee



TEMPLE De Hirsch Sinai

Share our past. Shape our future.

Daniel A. Weiner, *Senior Rabbi*
Aaron C. Meyer, *Associate Rabbi*
Micah Ellenson, *Assistant Rabbi & Director of Congregational Learning*
Jaclyn Cohen, *Assistant Rabbi*
Lisa D. Horowitz, *Executive Director*
Jerry Granfein, *Director of Finance*

Officers

Don Loeb, *President*
Grant Degginger, *President-Elect*
Lisa Bridge, *Secretary*
Neil Weinstein, *Treasurer*
Nick Baral, *Vice President*
Stephanie Carmel, *Vice President*
Betsy Cohen, *Vice President*
Elizabeth Goertzel, *Vice President*

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Alhadeff
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Hofy Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Stair 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Mossels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Mayor Stokes and Council members,

My name is Taylor and I am a 6th grader at Temple De Hirsch Sinai. The government has an annual budget of about \$3.55 trillion so, the budget for homelessness being \$3 billion seems miniscule. With already insufficient funds for this, it would be horrible to take away some of the little support that the homeless people have. According to Jewish tradition, even a poor man, a subject of charity, should give charity. Please vote YES to the Bellevue homeless shelter.

Sincerely,

Taylor Small



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3650 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Elienson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jery Gronlein, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barret, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Ahadefi
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Nelman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Scheer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis – Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi – Retired

Stanley Meisels 1968-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes & Council Members,
My name is Mila Shulman & I am in 6th grade at Temple De Hirsch Sinai. The population of the homeless keeps growing. To turn your back on the problem is the same as making the situation worse. We need to address the problem now, we can't come back to the problem later. As Midrash once said, "A boat is examined for holes and cracks before departure, not when it is already at sea." Please vote YES to build a permanent men's shelter in the Eastgate neighborhood.

Thank You for your Contribution

Mila Shulman



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellenson, Assistant Rabbi & Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jerry Gronlein, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barrat, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Alhadeff
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaar
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1889-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Meisels 1968-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1983-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes and councilmembers,
My name is Georgia Samuels and I am a
10th grader at Temple De Hirsch Sinai. It's sad
to think that many people around Puget sound
are suffering from homelessness. In the Jewish
tradition, we were told that even a poor man,
a subject of charity, should give charity.
I know you are considering a
Permanent Mens shelter near the
Eastgate neighborhood in
Bellevue and I urge
you to vote yes on this
plan, please help the men in
need. It's important to
have a place to
LIVE!

Thank You,
Georgia - Georgia



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
 Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
 Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
 Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
 Micah Ellenson, Assistant Rabbi & Director of Congregational Learning
 Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
 Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
 Jerry Gronfein, Director of Finance

Officers
 Don Loeb, President
 Grant Degglinger, President-Elect
 Lisa Bridge, Secretary
 Neil Weirstein, Treasurer
 Nick Barrat, Vice President
 Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
 Betsy Cohen, Vice President
 Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President
 Jeff Teper

Trustees
 Aaron Alhadeff
 Alyssa Bobman
 Earl Caditz
 Alison Handlin
 Michael Hirsch
 Myles Kahn
 Holly Levin
 Gordon Lotzker
 Melanie Miller
 Laurie Minsk
 Monica Neiman
 Karen Ovetz
 Dan Rosenstein
 Alexis Rubenstein
 Josh Schaefer
 Alan Sears
 Rachel Stoner
 Dawn Thomas
 Brett Waldbaum
 Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired
 Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
 Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
 Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
 Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired
 Stanley Meisels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus
 Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes and Council members

My name is Sarah Koffman, I am a 6th grader at Temple De Hirsch Sinai. Somebody once said, "He who gives a coin to a poor man is rewarded with 6 blessings, but he who encourages him with friendly words is rewarded with 11." Vote yes. Help our community. These people lives are in your hands. Vote yes to the permanent men's shelter near the Eastgate ~~Neighborhood~~ Neighbors

Love,
 Sarah Koffman



Main Contact: 206.323.8496 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Elianson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jerry Granfen, Director of Finance

Officers

Dan Loebl, President
Grant Degglinger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Bernat, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Ahedeff
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzbar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaar
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Meisels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes and Councilmembers,
My name is Laynee Resnikoff and I am a 6th grader at Temple De Hirsch Sinai. I don't live in Bellevue, but I do live near a high homeless filled area. I see homeless people sometimes when I leave the store and I feel terrible to know one more person is homeless in the state of Washington. A Jewish value is, even a poor man, a subject of charity, should give charity. Anyone and everyone should give back to the community even someone who is going to live in the homeless shelter. People are people and no matter what they look like or their background they need to be helped and cared for. This is why I believe that a homeless shelter should be built for the homeless men of Bellevue, Issaquah, and Newcastle.

Thank you,
Laynee R.



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellenson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jery Grontfain, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barrat, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Ahadoff
Alyssa Bolman
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Mirak
Monica Nalman
Karen Owitz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaefer
Alan Sears
Rachel Sloner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Meisels 1986-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes and Council members,
My name is AJ Wolff and I am a 6th grader at IMS and if you could please make a shelter for the homeless I would really appreciate that because I know a lot of homeless people and they have really good personalities and really need some help to get back on their feet.

-AJ Wolff



TEMPLE De Hirsch Sinai

Share our past. Shape our future.

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellenson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jerry Gronfein, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weisbach, Treasurer
Nick Barnet, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Ahadell
Alyssa Bottom
Earl Caditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myra Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzker
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Morica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Scheer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbi - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1889-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Weissel 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Main Contact: 206.323.8456 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7361

Dear Mayor Stokes and Council members,
my name is Maya Benaroya and I am a 6th grader at Temple De Hirsch Sinai. I am writing to you because I am thoroughly disappointed that you are still debating the construction of the permanent mens homeless shelter. As we sit in our homes with heating, food and other luxuries, men, women and children are out on the streets freezing, starving and struggling to survive. Joshua B. Korkha said, "Anyone who shuts his eye against charity is like one who worships idols." I am not saying that you guys are worshipping idols, but I am saying that you could do more than you are already doing. Being a Council member or even the Mayor is much more than benefitting the middle to upper class, but supporting everyone for we are all made in the image of G-d. Please consider what I have to say as you decide the fate of the homeless population of Bellevue.

Sincerely,
Maya Benaroya



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
 Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
 Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98005 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Share our past. Shape our future.

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
 Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
 Micah Ellenson, Assistant Rabbi & Director of Congregational Learning
 Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
 Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
 Jerry Granstein, Director of Finance

Officers
 Don Loeb, President
 Grant Deggliger, President-Elect
 Lisa Bridge, Secretary
 Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
 Nick Barak, Vice President
 Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
 Betsy Cohen, Vice President
 Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President
 Jeff Teper

Trustees
 Aaron Ahadef
 Alyssa Bobman
 Earl Cadiz
 Alison Handin
 Michael Hirsch
 Myles Kahn
 Holly Levin
 Gordon Lotzkar
 Melanie Miller
 Laurie Minsk
 Monica Neiman
 Karen Ovetz
 Dan Rosenstein
 Alexis Rubenstein
 Josh Schaeer
 Alan Seans
 Rachel Stoner
 Dawn Thomas
 Brett Waldbaum
 Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired
 Theodore Joseph (z"l) 1899-1906
 Samuel Koch (z"l) 1906-1942
 Raphael H. Levine (z"l) 1942-1970
 Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired
 Stanley Meisels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus
 Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes and Council members

My name is Rebecca Dion,
 I am a 6th grader at Temple De Hirsch Sinai. I just want you to know that the people that are homeless are people too. And they deserve to have a house or apartment. We have to do whatever we can to help them. Please, please vote YES on permanent men's shelter near the Eastgate neighborhood. Thank you for all your help.

Sincerely,
 Becca
 Dion

P.S. As one of the Jewish Community states "Anyone who shut his/her eye against charity is like one who worships idols"

- Joshua B. Korkah



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsina.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3650 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Elerson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jery Goertzel, Director of Finance

Officers
Don Loeb, President
Grant Diegginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barsel, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsey Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President
Jeff Teper

Trustees
Aaron Alhadef
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Ceditz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzkar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaefer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired
Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1859-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired
Stanley Meleets 1968-1994

Executive Director Emeritus
Lawrence N. Broder 1983-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes and Councilmembers,

My name is Carmel Bolog I am a 6th grader at Temple De Hirsch Sinai. I think that homelessness is an awful thing and that I am so lucky to have a house to live in. There are so many homeless people around the Puget Sound and all of them need a good place to live. In my religion we believe that each human being was created in the image of God. I know that you are thinking about building a permanent men's shelter around Eastgate neighborhood. Please vote YES on this plan. Everyone deserves a place to live.

Sincerely,
Carmel
Carmel



Share our past. Shape our future.

Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.464.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Elenson, Assistant Rabbi & Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lita D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jenny Gronlein, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Diegginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridges, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Baroni, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Ahlstedt
Alyssa Botman
Earl Casitz
Alicia Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzler
Melanie Miller
Laurie Mirsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovetz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaefer
Alan Seers
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired

Stanley Meisels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1953-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes and Councilmembers,

My name is Marisa Arensberg and I am a 6th grader at Temple De Hirsch Sinai. I am stunned to see all the adults and children suffering from not having a house, losts their job, has some kind of illness and more. I believe that you are considering a men's shelter near the Eastgate neighborhood in Bellvue and I hope you vote YES. As a jewish tradition it states "Even a poor man, a subject or charity, should give charity (Darkai Chayim 10b2). Please don't turn your back on this oppurtunity and help those in needs.

sincerely,

Marisa Arensberg



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
Micah Ellerson, Assistant Rabbi &
Director of Congregational Learning
Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
Jerry Greenfeld, Director of Finance

Officers

Don Loeb, President
Grant Degginger, President-Elect
Lisa Bridge, Secretary
Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
Nick Barak, Vice President
Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
Betsy Cohen, Vice President
Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President

Jeff Teper

Trustees

Aaron Alhadeff
Alyssa Bobman
Earl Cadiz
Alison Handlin
Michael Hirsch
Myles Kahn
Holly Levin
Gordon Lotzbar
Melanie Miller
Laurie Minsk
Monica Neiman
Karen Ovelz
Dan Rosenstein
Alexis Rubenstein
Josh Schaer
Alan Sears
Rachel Stoner
Dawn Thomas
Brett Waldbaum
Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis – Retired

Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi – Retired

Stanley Meisels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus

Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Dear Mayor Stokes
and council members,

My name is Noah I want to build that homeless shelter. I want you to build it because I want you a subject of charity. Even a poor man, It will make them should give charity. I would really appreciate it for the Homeless people.

- Noah



Main Contact: 206.323.8486 | info@tdhs-nw.org | www.templedehirschsinai.org
 Seattle Campus: 1511 East Pike Street | Seattle, WA 98122 | Fx: 206.324.6772
 Bellevue Campus: 3850 156th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA 98006 | Fx: 425.454.7391

Daniel A. Weiner, Senior Rabbi
 Aaron C. Meyer, Associate Rabbi
 Micah Ellenson, Assistant Rabbi & Director of Congregational Learning
 Jaclyn Cohen, Assistant Rabbi
 Lisa D. Horowitz, Executive Director
 Jerry Gronfein, Director of Finance

Officers
 Don Loeb, President
 Grant Degginger, President-Elect
 Lisa Bridge, Secretary
 Neil Weinstein, Treasurer
 Nick Barak, Vice President
 Stephanie Carmel, Vice President
 Betty Cohen, Vice President
 Elizabeth Goertzel, Vice President

Immediate Past President
 Jeff Teper

Trustees
 Aaron Alkadef
 Alyssa Botman
 Earl Caditz
 Alison Handin
 Michael Hirsch
 Myles Kohn
 Holly Levin
 Gordon Lotzler
 Melanie Miller
 Laurie Minsk
 Monica Neiman
 Karen Ovez
 Dan Rosenstein
 Alexis Rubenstein
 Josh Schaer
 Alan Sears
 Rachel Stoner
 Dawn Thomas
 Brett Waldbaum
 Ron Waldbaum

Senior Rabbis - Retired
 Theodore Joseph (z'l) 1899-1906
 Samuel Koch (z'l) 1906-1942
 Raphael H. Levine (z'l) 1942-1970
 Earl S. Starr 1970-2001

Associate Rabbi - Retired
 Stanley Meisels 1988-1994

Executive Director Emeritus
 Lawrence N. Broder 1993-2013

VISION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai leads the community in Reform Jewish thought and practice, enriching the lives of our members and our community as we explore our Jewish possibilities together.

MISSION: Temple De Hirsch Sinai serves a large, diverse, multi-campus Reform Jewish congregation in the greater Seattle area and provides leadership in promoting Jewish ethical and moral concepts. We uphold the traditional values of our historic congregation and strive to create a progressive and contemporary Jewish environment providing worship, education, lifecycle events, community building, and community service opportunities to all of our members.

Mayor Stokes and Councilmembers,

The enclosed letters, from the 6th and 10th grade classes at Temple De Hirsch Sinai, speak on important truth held by these students. A central Jewish belief is that each person was created in the image of God and thus deserves the respect afforded to God. How we treat those experiencing homelessness is nothing short of a moral, religious choice, and has been the subject of our studies for a number of weeks.

We are well aware that the problems caused by poverty and homelessness are too expensive to be "solved" by one decision. We also know that change can begin with us. Enabling the construction of The Eastside Men's Shelter and supportive housing project will offer vital services to Bellevue residents. We pledge to continue supporting Congregations for the Homeless as they run this shelter, and to do our part in restoring the dignity and opportunity to our friends and neighbors in need.

Please accept and share these letters from concerned citizens of Bellevue and King County. As Moses changed Joshua, Chazak v'ematz - may you be strong and courageous in standing with those in need.

Aaron Meyer
 Rabbi Aaron Meyer

3/27/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. With safety consideration for college students and commuters next to the shelter, the council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Regards,

Leslie

3/27/2017

I wish to speak in favor of the new homeless shelter. I have helped serve dinner to homeless at the Eastshore Unitarian Church.

Occasionally one of the men attends our church, St. Andrew's Lutheran church, on Sunday. Let us help where we can.

Pat & Paul Kaald

Bellevue, Wa.

3/28/2017

Mike,

We continue to hear strong opposition to this project from our neighbors, from Eastgate merchants and from others who frequent businesses and facilities in the area.

Attached is our assessment of the project, and our hope that the Bellevue City Council will recognize the validity of these broad-based concerns and objections, and will direct a continued search for a more acceptable shelter site.

John & Linda Parazynski

Bellevue Resident Reaction to Proposed Men's Shelter in Eastgate

The proposed Eastgate men's shelter site is unacceptable, if only because of proximity to Bellevue College. But the proposal negatively impacts many other aspects of community and commercial life and activity in the general Eastgate neighborhood:

- A key consideration is the reality that the site will become a magnet for unsavory and marginal elements in our society. The facility would draw not only people from Seattle but from the greater northwest and possibly beyond, as has been the case with the generous Seattle welfare benefits that have attracted many homeless.
- Of particular concern are illicit drug dealers who would view the facility as an attractive market for their services.
- Without question shelter occupants would not be spending all of their time in the shelter. Their continuing presence and possible disruptive behavior in Eastgate and Factoria are valid safety and security worries.
- As has been stated by many locals, the Eastgate site would likely impact not only students, nearby residents, commuters, motel guests, shops, restaurants and service businesses, but also the extensive commercial office activities in the immediate vicinity. Nor would potential

new Eastgate office tenants or potential developers of new Eastgate commercial property view favorably an adjacent men's shelter.

- Relative implementation and operational costs are also considerations yet to be properly addressed. Why not consider existing, abandoned or lightly-used public buildings as possible sites; or candidate sites in the light-industrial area along the future light-rail system? Also, the quoted preliminary facility cost appears excessive; and how will annual operation costs be funded or financed?
- Eastgate and surrounding property values, both residential and commercial, will be negatively affected.
- Not totally facetious, one could ask, "Why not look at other potential sites such as Hunts Point, Newport Shores or Mercer Island?" But seriously, King County must have more suitable sites; the search for alternative sites should not be limited to Bellevue.

Our final thought returns to the dominant issue of public safety and security. Hopefully, the Bellevue City Council and King County government will weigh heavily the above considerations and will reach a determination to continue the search for a men's shelter site.

John & Linda Parazynski March 28, 2017

3/28/2017

I am writing to oppose the location of the low barrier men's shelter in Eastgate

As I quote from http://bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Parks/mens_homeless_shelter_FAQs.pdf, "The site is located in a non-residential area of Eastgate in Bellevue, just north of I-90 ..." The statement is incorrect. The site is within 5 minutes walking distance from 230+ residential townhome households, as well as Bellevue college where student residences are being built. In fact this statement also contradicts "5. Why here?" section in the very same document, which states one factor of consideration is to "Avoid single family residential areas."

This section actually tells us that the location is actually residential. It's just not a single family residential area.

So, really, what is this document trying to tell us? Townhomes are not considered residential to Bellevue, or only single family residences matter? The fact that a single document includes contradicting statement is disappointing and reek of information obfuscation on the disclosure and shows that the site selection process is flawed. Furthermore, the location of the low barrier men's shelter is next to preschool, college and P&R, putting the neighborhood and residents at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites that are best suited for the proposed low barrier shelter.

Philip Chan

3/29/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

The land near Eastgate Park&Ride structure could be used to build either recreation area, child care facilities or shopping mall. City and residents who pay taxes would benefit a lot more.

Ilya Elterman
Bellevue resident

3/31/2017

March 31 2017

Please include this in your remarks concerning the men's shelter that is planned for Eastgate .

Concerning the low barrier shelter in Eastgate.

Our family has over the course of careers moved many times. One move took us to a different state so we went on a house hunting trip looking for a house we could afford.

We asked the city and the developer if there were plans to widen the road that ran near the house, since we didn't want to buy, and find out later they were going to turn it into something else. We were told there are no plans to widen it.

Three years later here comes the announcement from the powers to be that they needed our neighbors' properties to use for the new parkway.

We were not given the true ten-year plan, the plan was not available to us when buying the house.

There was just enough misinformation and vagueness so it was too late to do anything about it....and yes, the neighbors' yards were taken and the parkway was built.

My point is: I see some déjà vu going on here..... except with far more damage than just taking someone's physical property.

I see an open invitation to King County and Seattle that Eastgate... (not Bellevue, but Eastgate)... will take the brunt of 150+ of these men, men who have histories of felonies, sexual offenses, drug and alcohol addiction who do not want to follow rules, along with mentally unstable men.

Yes, these men are and will always be part of us and our humanity; but they do not belong next to residential neighborhoods with schools and businesses and beautiful parks where children play. The shelter is not compatible with this location.

We all need to thrive..... we need to be allowed to thrive just as much as the low barrier homeless men do.

Do not trade one for the other.

We know there is more than one site for this shelter and Eastgate is not the only site that would work, and you know that too.

It is a difficult thing but to those of you who can speak up on behalf of us, your constituents; we ask that you will do it with the honor and courage you hold in your hearts.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joan Sinclair

3/31/2017

Council members,

My daughter is now studying at Eastside Christian School, the location for the low barrier men's shelter is too close to the school, I really concern that will put my kid in the area at risk. I think the council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Thanks

Lisa

3/31/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

The City's intent to build this homeless men's shelter is dangerous and misguided. It puts the young students at Bellevue College and the people of surrounding area in peril. It will be too late when we experience our first rape, murder, robbery and burglary. Believe me, with this type of element, it is inevitable. I beg you to reconsider. The track record for this type of maneuver is to hold meetings so the city can say they were willing to listen when all the time they intend to go ahead with their plans. In this case, bending the zoning laws to do it. This is such a shame.

Best Regards,
Mark Stanley

3/31/2017

Council members,

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

There are no legitimate services in this area that can be accessed by homeless as suggested by the council. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ginny Lester

4/3/2017

Council members,

I laud your efforts to find a stable solution to the challenges associated with helping those people who find themselves temporarily homeless. However, I am opposed to the low barrier men's shelter in Eastgate for multiple reasons the most significant of which is the clearly incomplete site selection process. Had Boeing designed airplanes to the type of requirements articulated by your staff has then there would be many more former Boeing employees in Puget Sound among the homeless & far fewer people flying on Boeing airplanes.

The lack of rigor in the requirements definition phase and associated documentation and the growing appearance of a "rush to solution" or if you prefer a "get it done quickly before anyone realizes what we're doing" process is certainly disconcerting.

Regardless the constant use of "if selected" language the so far leading (only proposed) location for the low barrier men's shelter is near churches, preschools, a college and P&R and is thus inappropriate and will put Bellevue's most vulnerable citizens, i.e., your constituents, many of whom vote, at risk.

Speaking of risk, another critical aspect of any project is a risk analysis that clearly identifies as many potential risks as possible. Knowing that every potential risk is comprised of both a probability of occurrence and the consequences of it occurring, one example would be a young child just learning to walk falling on and stabbed by a needle discarded by a drug addicted person. Given sufficient preventive measures the likelihood is probably low, but the consequences are high enough to make such an identified risk completely unacceptable.

The council needs to formally re-start the site selection process with a clear statement of selection requirements and risk assessment.

You might consider enlisting Bellevue College's Continuing Education Project Management students <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/ce/programs/business/project-management/> to help in this effort.

Another source of good requirement development is the Systems Engineering Body of Knowledge (SEBOK): http://sebokwiki.org/wiki/Stakeholder_Needs_and_Requirements.

Lacking finding any clearly articulated requirements (i.e., selection criteria) in your process, I offer these as a start:

The site shall:

- a) Be built vertically above a footprint of no more than 'x' thousand square feet (horizontal reduces tax base),
- b) Be within 1000 feet of all forms of public transit,
- c) Have more than 'x' jobs within 'y' miles, i.e., close to a major business area with a wide range of job opportunities (e.g., street sweeping, custodial to high tech software coding),
- d) Be within a 5 minute walk of a local constabulary station, &

e) Not have any "at-risk" populations within 1 mile, e.g., pre-schools, colleges and health care facilities. For example placing low barrier shelters above any/all of the parking garages within 1000 feet of the Bellevue City Hall would meet all of the above criteria as I am sure would many sites in the Bel-Red corridor as that area is modified for light rail.

I'm sure there are other requirements/criteria to be considered as well as other sites that would meet my proposed starting criteria above.

I reiterate - it is time to re-start this project and proceed in a completely open and transparent manner starting with defining, and vetting with your constituents, the requirements. You may need to hold some focus groups, conduct interviews, send out questionnaires & study existing law, regulations and standards as well as consulting national & international experts on homelessness such as those referenced/discussed by Danny Westneat in his March 10, 2017 column in the Seattle Times

<<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/more-money-for-homeless-seattle-consultants-said-no-last-fall/>>

I look forward to a revitalized process that starts with system engineering basics of requirements definition, risk assessment and then proceeds through the resource identification and provider/supplier selection phases and finally successful execution.

Thank you for your time and continued service to our community,

John H. Chase, Jr.

4/3/2017

As a resident, I wanted to voice my strong opposition to the current proposal to build a low barrier shelter in Eastgate. I'm especially concerned that not only did the mayor reject the signatures presented in a recent petition opposing the shelter, but that recent documents obtained through the freedom of information act show that the City Council is not being honest with the neighborhood about the potential impact.

I read the due diligence reports that will be presented tonight, and didn't see a single mention of anything close to what you are proposing. Every low barrier shelter site in the report was put in a high crime area with a large existing homeless population.

Eastgate is a residential area with a very small homeless population. To bring 100 dangerous individuals into a residential area just because it's cheaper than putting the shelter downtown (where a large number of the homeless are) is unconscionable.

The churches that bus in non-residents to our meetings shouldn't even be allowed to speak. The churches themselves have rejected the concept of low barrier shelters, so why in the world would they fight to put it in someone else's backyard?

This shelter does not belong anywhere in suburban Bellevue.

Please listen to your constituents, instead of developers and churches they don't want them in their own backyards.

Best,

Jennifer Harrington

4/3/2017

Totally against this shelter going to Eastgate.

Elaine Morgan

4/3/2017

I am not in favor of the Eastside shelter as currently planned.

Peggy Deno

4/3/2017

I support the shelter itself, however, I do not believe the Eastgate location is appropriate. It is too close to Bellevue College, parks, and residential neighborhoods.

4/3/2017

Please consider keeping the shelter permanently in its current location. It functions, funds could be used to refurbish site to non-profit needs to run shelter. It is located downtown, near hospitals, police, Bellevue transit, and stores. It is a commercial district w/NO private residences or schools on top of it. Since it runs well now, why reinvent the wheel?

Marybeth John

4/3/2017

I am opposed to the shelter at this area because of the proximity to Eastgate, Factoria and Bellevue College.

4/3/2017

I live very close to the Factoria, shopping center and I am concerned about residents affect on that area!

4/3/2017

We fully support year round shelter and support for homeless men in our community. We live in the Eastgate area and feel comfortable with having a shelter in south Bellevue.

4/3/2017

The people who are voting on this issue don't live in this neighborhood. Don't wish on us what you would not wish for yourselves. No objections to medium or high barrier homeless. No low barrier please.

Joy Paltiel

4/3/2017

I strongly support the plans for the permanent shelter. The Eastgate critically needs these services and CFH is an excellent non-profit. I've met several men at the Winter Shelter and can see how important this center would be for them. Please approve the Eastgate project.

4/3/2017

The shelter is an important needed project in Bellevue. I'm looking forward to the city leaders making a positive decision for this service to the community. We have a chance to shine, let's take it!

Villette Noron

4/3/2017

I paint murals for free at shelters 1 stay at the Eastside Winter shelter and the connecting buildings are a sophisticated super intimate mall - bring a campaign of any kind to buy the whole Lincoln center for the poor to work. Free murals for alley walls also - thank you.

Patrick Grogan

4/3/2017

I live in Redmond and sympathize with local residents near proposed homeless shelter. However, if a helter was proposed near my home, I would reserve judgement until I learned about the impact on neighborhoods in which other shelters exist. I'm for the shelter as a major step in assisting a vulnerable population - would like more statistics.

Terry Heuer

4/3/2017

I undersand there are many concerns about the proposed shelter. I strongly affirm CFH's ability to work with city officials and community to make this work. We need to take care of the vulnerable.

Mary Neifert

4/3/2017

The shelter will empower and change the lives of hundreds of good men. Their lives will have a chance of seeing a brighter future through the structure and resources given at such a shelter. All for it.

Michael Brown

4/3/2017

I believe that this shelter should be approved. CFH has extensive experience running this type of shelter.

Ron Snell

4/3/2017

I'm from Westminster Chapel where we host the men in April.

Debbie Markezill

4/3/2017

This project would really benefit not only the men who needing shelter but also provide Bellevue with outstanding Human Services needed in this area. Hero House works to serve all people who need mental health, employment, and now housing services in the Bellevue and greater Seattle metro area.

Hero House Housing Committee

4/3/2017

Please "No" shelter in Bellevue. With recent increase in crime rate and drug use related to homeless in Seattle, it is a great safety concern as a Bellevue resident over 20 years that a low barrier men's shelter is permanently coming to Bellevue. Bellevue is a beautiful city. Please do not let it become another trash city like Seattle.

Ying Pei

4/3/2017

I am a man who is struggling to maintain housing and was homeless no very long ago. Bellevue should approve this project and implement it very quickly. Those who are homeless will have a place to go instead of just wandering about Bellevue.

Ralph Casillas

4/3/2017

I oppose the shelter. Safety of our residents, students and users of the Park and Ride should come first.

Kelly Adcox

4/3/2017

I am in full support of this project housing. It will give humans a chance to get on their feet who have either hit a rough patch in life, or deal with an addiction to get help and move on in life, in a positive, healthy, supportive way. Let's ask ourselves, "what would Jesus do?"

Dora Goiea

4/3/2017

I am against low barrier mens shelter in Eastgate due to concern of the safety of my family, child who use public transit and also Bellevue college students.

Wendy Myers

4/3/2017

Against - not enough study has been done!
Valerie Barber

4/3/2017

I am opposed for the shelter being located in the Eastgate area - in close proximity to BCC and multiple elementary, middle and high schools. The Eastside has other locations near the new light rail station to better meet their needs and/or existing Lincoln location. Please consider our safety of our kids. We heard the issue but received no actionable statement. Where is the funding coming from?
Heidi Johnson

4/3/2017

Please do not set up this shelter near Eastgate. It is not a good site. It is near a college where many young female students study. A homeless shelter will be a crime center and cost more to resolve issues.
Dave Wu

3/27/2017

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. With safety consideration for college students and commuters next to the shelter, the council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.
Leslie

3/27/2017

By the time this process is complete how many men will have died or been hurt by not having shelter. Shame on us.
"Lord grant me the company of those who seek truth, and protect me from those who have found it,"
Trish Rogers
Trish, Tony, and Anna and Rio

3/27/2017

I just took a brief look at the due diligence report and I do not see that you've address the concern that homeless shelters has only created more homelessness. And not really out to help those who need and want to be helped. In another words, flushing money down the toilet! If I can't nicely lay the issue out with you then I'll just have to put it in more understandable terms for you.
If you were homeless for a year, are you going to get your butt moving and get yourself out of homelessness or are you going to lay there day-after-day day-dreaming that one day you won't be homeless? If your answer is you'll lay there until you're not homeless then that is a direct indication that homeless shelters only provide a place for lazy people to lounge and waste their lives. If your answer is get your butt moving then why are they still homeless after 2 years? In both cases it proves that homeless shelter does not serve it's purpose of getting people on their feet. So again why are we wasting money there? Should you spend more money educating kids on how not to get into a homeless situation? For the mentally ill, the best place for them is a mental hospital not a shelter that doesn't have professional help in that area. If homeless programs work, there should be less homeless people and not more moving from different areas of US to come and take up our hard earned tax money! What kind of lunatics have we elected to run this city who can't even see this very simple point?
And I have commented with suggestions of better ways to help the homeless and not ruin society. What are you showing to the children? That if they don't study they can become homeless and they'll still have a place to stay? They don't have to work hard to achieve? They can be on drugs and the government is in full support? No, this is not

compassion! You really want to help then make a program that let's them get financial independence. CREATE jobs that they can do. Teach them to make a living!

Amy

3/27/2017

I wish to speak in favor of the new homeless shelter. I have helped serve dinner to homeless at the Eastshore Unitarian Church.

Occasionally one of the men attends our church, St. Andrew's Lutheran church, on Sunday. Let us help where we can.
Pat & Paul Kaald

3/28/2017

I continue to be very favorably impressed with the thorough and evidence-based work accomplished by City staff to provide the best available information to City Council and the community. I have three specific comments after reading the latest material provided:

- It was stated very clearly that those community members opposing the shelter have stated that no collection of mitigation strategies would be sufficient to change their minds. This is a commonplace attitude among those who oppose assisted housing and social service facilities located in their community. It suggests that going forward the City should focus on working with those who not only agree that Bellevue should do more to address homelessness but are also willing to work collaboratively and positively to make the shelter work well for the men served there and the surrounding neighborhoods and businesses.
- Motivating men to eventually leave the shelter will be most dependent upon sensitive and effective case management and the availability of better alternatives, not rigid time limits and punitive policies and procedures.
- Bellevue PD hopefully views the shelter and its residents as a community to be served and not simply a collection of men from whom the surrounding community needs to be protected. BPD should employ its community policing model with the same spirit of positive engagement as elsewhere.

Thank you for the superb you're doing on this complex and challenging issue.

Tony Mazzella

3/28/2017

I support a men's shelter in Bellevue to help prepare our city for the growing homeless problem in this area. I've watched the problem grow in Seattle, and it is obvious it's spilling over into Bellevue.

I am particularly optimistic of the location of the shelter to help bring these individuals into educational opportunities with Bellevue College. The close proximity to the park and ride and bus transportation may also provide opportunity to get to and from the shelter. Such opportunities do come with associated risk to young students as well as personal property that need to be accounted for is the mitigation planning.

Such optimism may be a bit too far-fetched, but I'd like to see the "support services" include such possibilities, as rehabilitation of these individuals is necessary. While drugs and mental illness are recognized as common characteristics of the homeless, there is a surprising number of individuals choosing to be homeless who may benefit from opportunities to change their outlook on life through education and such support services.

Ross Tinti

I am fairly new to Bellevue and I see that the location is very close to Bellevue College.

Whilst I certainly understand the need for the shelter, would this location not negatively impact the College registration and attendance?

Unfortunately shelters do bring concerns around safety as well as a potential increase in general criminal activity. I know that this is not always the case and it is certainly a bit of a generalization but it would be good to know what impact is expected?

It may turn out that it is a positive impact and will get our students more involved but I would hate to see the opposite effect.

Anyway, just some food for thought.

Scott Stewart

3/28/2017

It's so disappointing that the City consistently "neglects" to list THE KEY FEATURE of the proposed plan==> "low barrier." We see "manipulation by omission" by the city in all its publicity (media & website) -- the reason so many citizens are cynical about government. PLEASE CONSIDER THE "PATH FORWARD" IDEAS IN MY RECENT "PEACE OFFERING" EMAIL SENT TO COUNCIL & SEVERAL KEY STAFF ON SATURDAY 3/15/17. it would be sad for everyone (including the homeless) IF the city misses this last opportunity to negotiate with concerned citizens. We are not going away.

Cheryl Zettler

3/28/2017

The current proposed location of this homeless shelter is unacceptable! It needs to be relocated to an area away from residents and students.

A female was recently attacked in downtown Seattle. The proposed location is at the "back door" of Bellevue College, Eastgate Park and Ride, and also numerous residents, such as my home located in Madronna Park.

What services could this shelter provide beyond endless traffic of people to panhandle, rob, and possibly worse.

Again, this proposed location is AWFUL!

Nina MacGarva

3/28/2017

I just finished reading the preliminary report on the impact of the proposed homeless shelter on the local area. I was particularly concerned by the last section describing the impact on property values. How on earth can you look at the impacts of low income housing, with a stable rental population, and assume that the same effects will apply to a low barrier homeless shelter. No one is objecting to the 50-60 permanent apartments proposed. No one is objecting to low income persons in the area. What they are objecting to is the presence, on a constant basis, of 100 to 125, or more, homeless men (with no screening for substance abuse) moving around the area on a daily basis. Of course an established apartment community will have much less impact than a low barrier homeless shelter.

Also, you seem to be using a number of factors to mitigate the project that aren't, in fact, tied to the project at all. For example, you keep citing the proposed zoning change to a transit-oriented development node as a mitigating factor. First, the zoning change isn't dependent on the proposed homeless shelter, so the effect of the shelter on any future development in that area isn't really offset by the zoning change. Second, since (unlike Pioneer Square or downtown Bellevue) the area isn't currently used extensively by pedestrians or bikers, it would seem to me that the presence of many homeless men in the area is only going to discourage future users.

Also, since CFH and Imagine Housing are being cited for their extensive experience, exactly what experience do they have with projects comparable to the current one – a low barrier shelter in a permanent location? My understanding is that they have previously worked only with temporary locations, many of them high barrier.

Rhee Elikor, CPA, MBT

3/29/2017

Using the park and ride at Eastgate is a necessity Unfortunately there isn't any security visible at any hour early or late It isn't going to be comfortable to have the homeless sharing this area and I am very leery of prowlers increasingly having very easy access to the hundreds of cars. Left for hours without and security in tact.

Linda Igoe

3/28/2017

I want you to know that I am fully in support of the Eastgate location. I am confident in the Congregations for the Homeless and the Bellevue police to maintain safety. There is no perfect location. I am confident that the resistance will subside once it has been operational for a year.

I was homeless for a short time when I was young and I was given help. As a result, I believe I have been able to have a productive life raising my family, running a business and now doing a little to serve our community.

Gerald Hughes

3/29/2017

We all understand that this process could have gone smoother. What is missing in the Eastgate homeless shelter due diligence page are the buy in and trust. At its heart is the bookends of buying into strategy for homelessness and long-term expectations. The role of the city is somewhat clearer but still confused with the overall program. It is evident a lot of good work went into this projects to fit it for Bellevue, like the "Best Practices" section. But in order to gain trust, we need to step back before moving on.

What could have gone better is the education of the public on the strategy to end homelessness. The words were there but the understanding was not. Do we believe homelessness should be rare, one-time, brief? No one would disagree we want this, but do we believe it possible?. Or is this a similar to Vision Zero, a productive mindset but impractical to actually achieve? The strategy is not self-evident, even on the county plan overview pages.

The 33 page AllHome Strategic Plan and 61 page SWAP report are too intense to be widely read. They are clearer on the actions but did not show evidence that the plan will work. The end to end solution touted by the homeless services sector that has been proven to work was misusing the real data outcomes. The metrics to drive it are clear in king county documents but the funding and machine behind that unclear. The goal numbers pedigree appears to be based on agreement not data. The evidence exists but was not part of the conversation. See Appendix A for a start.

Rare and one-time are not covered by the word "shelter". They are covered by economics and services. It was not clear if most of the services are already there with the King County Health facility and what being brought in by CFH. Although this is not the City's some purview, we need that layer understood as well as this being a part of a system beyond a shelter.

Brief. We haven't connected the dots fully. How the system will work is not clear: shelter, services, affordable housing, charities, etc. What is brief? It took me a while to find it is a 20 day goals in the Allhomekc plan.

By presenting the solution as Eastgate, we lost the opportunity to educate all the neighborhoods about the strategy: most looked with little depth, and Eastgate, understandably focused on the implications of the shelter, especially low barrier, may have needed to understand the details of low barrier first. Given that we all prioritize using NIMBY as a factor, there was likely to be little interest unless all the sites were put out for discussion.

Another opportunity was missed when the mitigation was not resolved hand-in-hand as concerns were brought forth. The due diligence is a good starting place but will need specific outreach. However, focusing on this now would dilute the prices of site selection and buy-in.

The above two missed opportunities multiply into a bigger miss: an opportunity to begin King County strategy to foster long term resident collaboration. Instead we got engagement where the residents felt alone in their right to not see their neighborhood deteriorate.

Another concern is the ability of the agencies who run the operations and manage the capital investment. It is not clear how they were vetted and why there is confidence in their ability to deal with the rapid growth. Is quantity going to outpace quality and consistency? There are supply issues now. Those will be multiplied. How will they deal with the overhead of data collection, county engagement, and reporting? The opportunities for them to partner with other agencies does not seem to bolster the core competencies needed.

The data driven outcomes need to be clear. There needs to be specifics in our funding agreement to tie to outcomes. It is not clear which agencies are involved in setting challenging yet achievable goals.

Travel destination? Whether it is the Westside, countywide, or worldwide, I missed the plan for how we handle the shelter bring too popular.

For the project plan, it would be nice to hear about the services and parking for clients cars. The car and camper homeless are not cited specifically.

We started too late. Since all the sites were government owned, there was not an issue of a real estate deal confidentiality. We need to keep in mind that lack of input in a acquisition of public or private property is a risk.

No matter where the shelter goes, we should have some neighborhood incentives beyond mitigation. One good turn deserves another. The shelter will effect the neighborhood, whether it is financial or just one more thing to deal with. The neighborhood as a whole deserves an investment for the residents. We should not have winner and loser neighborhoods. How do we share the burdens and the blessings?

We need the bookends: agreement on the best method to solve homelessness and the long term plans, methods, and expected outcomes. This lack of agreement resulted in a fundamental difference in understanding why Eastgate was chosen.

Pamela Johnston
3741 122nd Ave NE

Appendix A

1. The surprisingly simple way Utah solved chronic homelessness and saved millions

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/inspired-life/wp/2015/04/17/the-surprisingly-simple-way-utah-solved-chronic-homelessness-and-saved-millions/>

2. Page 28 on <https://jobs.utah.gov/housing/scso/documents/homelessness2016.pdf>

3/30/2017

I commend those of you in government who are willing to make space for less fortunate members of our society. These are disturbing times & with social services being slashed, I believe we need to support this initiative whole heartedly.

Mrs. Donner

3/30/2017

I am against the Eastgate Homeless Men's Shelter. This is not a safe project for the community and it is not in a good area. I want my vote to count.

Cynthia J. Avanzino

3/30/2017

I'm writing in support of the proposed permanent CFH shelter. The men that benefit from the winter shelter are all amazing and many of them veterans. I have had the honor and privilege to volunteer there and enjoyed every single one that I came in contact with. I have a prior commitment that hinders my presence at next Monday's meeting, but wanted to show my support in any way I could.

Ashley Praetorius

3/31/2017

I am totally against this shelter being located in the Eastgate location.

You have young college students walking in the area. Commuters use the Park and Ride.

Will commuters want to continue to use Park and Ride when they may be at risk of assault, or having their cars broken into by those on drugs who will be welcomed at this shelter.

Have great concern that this shelter will change the character of the neighborhood.

I feel I will lose my sense of feeling secure in my own neighborhood.

Patricia Roos

3/31/2017

I'd like to voice my support for the building of a permanent men's shelter south of Bellevue.

I have been involved volunteering for the night men's shelter in Bellevue.

These are a great group of men with potential. A permanent shelter would be such a positive force in their lives.

Please give serious consideration in building this shelter. We on the eastside have a commitment to help the hopeless.

Judy Hannah

3/313/2017

This is the last thing we need. The reason I moved over here was the homeless problem Seattle has. If you give them a place to get food, shelter, and medicine you only keep them homeless and enable their continued homelessness. This flies in the face of every reason former Seattleites are buying property and houses over here.

Do the right thing and DO NOT do this.

Shannon Beverly

3/31/2017

I'm writing in support of the Men's Low Barrier Shelter at Eastgate as I won't be able to attend the meeting next week. I am a 27 year resident of the City. Have seen many, many changes in the City over this time and these changes have been well managed by the City in partnership with the community. I believe the City and its partners, including CFH and Bellevue Police, will partner to make this a "win-win" for the City.

I've had the opportunity to volunteer at the CFH Men's Winter Shelter for the last two winters. It's an impressive operation with so little resources. I also attended a meeting on the shelter a couple weeks ago and heard about the accomplishments of the CFH in partnership with the City and Bellevue Police.

I know there are many concerns about this shelter. I probably would have been on the other side of this issue had I not worked at the men's shelter these past two years. Seeing the men who would benefit from this facility allayed my fears that we are not dealing with people who will be a significant threat to our community. Of course there will need to be security measures taken and I'm confident based on the track record of the City, CFH and the Bellevue Police that these concerns will be adequately addressed.

I hope you and City staff will do everything you can to address these security concerns. At the same time I hope concerned residents will take a step outside their comfort zone and understand the true nature of this critical issue. This can be a "win-win" for everyone.

Ann Hajnosz

3/31/2017

I own a business in Bellevue, on 125th and Bel Red Road. I belong to St. Louise Catholic Church, between Eastgate and Crossroads. I have volunteered with a group of friends to provide a monthly meal to the emergency eastside shelters for three years now.

I cannot attend the meeting being held on April 3rd to discuss the proposed permanent shelter in the Eastgate area as I will be out of town. But I want to voice my support for it. The temporary shelter both this year and last is not that far from my office, and is so sorely needed, but so inadequate to meet the needs of homeless men in our city.

Homelessness is growing, and if we don't take steps to try and help improve it now, it is going to get worse. NOT having this shelter will only contribute to that growth. People need to be able to have a stable base in order to look for a job, have an address, and have access to coordinated services to help them move up and out of their situations.

The Eastgate location is excellent. There is public transportation, an educational institution that is willing to help, and space. I understand neighbors may not be happy, but the people who are homeless now will still be in our midst if we DON'T do this.

Thank you for working with CFH on a solution.

Ali Schoos, PT, OCS

3/31/2017

The city will likely never find a perfect location for a homeless shelter where everyone is in agreement. The current proposal is close to transit and it's close to existing social services. The need is dire; I hope you support this Eastgate plan and the sooner the better.

3/31/2017

I have participated on several of city's CAC's and similar public outreach programs from the city and from that participation I have grown very cynical of these public outreach programs. I believe the city staff and their chosen consultants have likely reached their conclusion prior to launching this effort. This outreach provides the staff and consultants time and experience to further select their statistics and cull out the proponents to wrap this up with a nice little bow on it. So this email is likely in vain since I am opposed to it.

My belief is that we all have compassion for the homeless, whether they are homeless because of some series of economic events, mental illness, or drug addiction. What I don't believe is that simply providing free housing for

everyone that happens to want it at the tax payers expense is the solution. That's what this shelter essentially is. What I never see as a part of these shelters is forced participation in drug rehabilitation, work camps, employment agencies. Everything is essentially voluntary except for the tax levied to pay for this. Simply providing housing and meals for these people is doing nothing to solve the underlying problem. I think in some ways we are promoting the problems by enabling them.

I believe this shelter will be a magnet for homeless around king county and beyond. Seattle has looked the other way with regards to the homeless allowing the problems associated with it to grow. It only makes sense that since it has gotten so bad over there that we are seeing some migration to Bellevue. This permanent shelter will only cause more of the homeless from Seattle and surrounding areas to seek out Bellevue as their destination. All of this has happened while there has been beds available. <http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/more-money-for-homeless-seattle-consultants-said-no-last-fall/>

If this wasn't such a serious issue the proposed mitigation is almost laughable. The statistics given for police activity is skewed at best. Part of my cynicism is caused from my participation in recent CAC's like Light Rail. Where the city promised to follow the "Best Practices" report with Sound Transit. The Best Practices are only planned for when it is cheap and easy otherwise we've been told one excuse or another... Traffic calming/mitigation for Enatai during construction – nothing is proposed because nothing is either easy or cheap. I could go on but I digress. The proposed mitigation is staffs way of getting around these pesky problems that won't go away and they can kick the can down the road without having to really solve the problem. <http://www.kiro7.com/news/neighborhood-sees-410-increase-ems-calls-after-hom/43401346>

I don't believe that Bellevue should be the site for a permanent shelter such as the one proposed. But IF, Bellevue is going to be the site for this type of shelter then it should be downtown away from single family neighborhoods. Downtown is all of our neighborhood and we can all share in the ramifications of this proposed shelter and not single out one residential area over another. <http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/slain-mother-of-4-was-pregnant/>

Just because Seattle is our neighbor does not mean we need to follow in its footsteps. We can do better. Let's work with the State to come up with real solutions to solve the problems associated with homelessness. Let's consider drug rehabilitation, work camps, employment help, and aid for the mentally ill. Just throwing money at this will not solve the problem. We're not teaching the homeless how to fish we're just handing them the proverbial fish.

Joel Glass

3/31/2017

Congregations for the Homeless has done an excellent job of managing shelters. The location and limited hours of regional shelters have been a deterrent to shelter use. The proposed location near the Eastgate Transit Center will make the shelter more accessible for homeless people in East King County along the I-90 corridor. Having the day center at the same site is helpful for those who want to arrive earlier than the current shelter opening or need a place to be beyond the usual morning exit time. The closeness to transit will facilitate getting people to work and to other resources. I would support this siting and the management of the program by this non-profit.
Elizabeth Maupin, M.Div.

4/2/2017

Don't do it. Statistics show that the more money that is spent on homeless men, the more homeless men there will be. Don't be like the climate change deniers who ignore statistical cause and effect correlations. Throwing money at the

problems, via providing more services for homeless men, makes the problem worse. It is largely a man-made problem created by good hearted people who care too much about the show of kindness and too little about results.

Separate out the mentally and physically disabled. Provide exemplary services to them and no services to the able-bodied and able-minded. Respect human dignity as much as we are told to respect the dignity of wildlife. There is a very good reason that we "don't feed the geese." Please show the same respect and concern for humans.

Steve Lawrence

4/2/2017

I firmly oppose the humongous permanent low barrier men's shelter in Eastgate. The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college, P&R is inappropriate and will put the most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The shelter should not be located in a residential area with families, young children, and the elderly; an appropriate location would be an industrial area. With the current proposal, how do you plan to safeguard the residents and commuters using the services and schools in the area? The taxpayers will bear the burden of a permanently ruined and unsafe community, while being on the hook to foot the bill for years to come. Please, listen to your citizen's concern.

Josefina Moschella

4/3/2017

Last week was the anniversary of the Seattle shelter showdown. This is the kind of partner, management, and problem solving we don't want. The threat to close 15 shelters for lack of funds is a true lack of partnership and accountability.

<http://archive.seattleweekly.com/news/963527-129/15-homeless-shelters-to-close-thursday>

Amela Johnston

4/3/2017

How can you possibly allow more shelters when you cannot manage the ones you have now!! Stop telling us to call the police and deal with the issue of homelessness in a proactive manner. Involve builders for one! Give police more support and for gods sake please offer mental health, job training at all shelters. It's a lot but there are people willing to help. The failure w Hopelink is that they do not self monitor and accept anyone sent their way. The city just ignores the problems they create. Too bad Hopelink started with the right intentions. I live near the Hopelink on 6th street. It's been a nightmare for our community! No supervision kids all over trespassing, some days we can't even sit on our decks. Enough said I think you get the point. Pull together builders, non profits and citizens . Bellevue is looking more like Seattle-yuk!

Leslie Shanahan

4/3/2017

I support CFH and the city's partnership to establish a homeless shelter in Eastgate. A few years ago, I might have been among the concerned neighbors who oppose the shelter at this location. However, in the last couple of years a group of friends and I have been bringing a meal each month to the men's emergency shelter in Bellevue and the family emergency shelter which just left Bellevue. I've personally heard the stories some of these people tell, and it's clear that just a bed for the night will not fix their problems. They need something long-term to depend upon while being offered services to get them help. Eastgate seems like an ideal location since it's close to transportation, a grocery store, etc. I live maybe two miles from there, if that makes any difference. I hope to be at the meeting on April 3rd, but in case I can't make it I wanted to make my views known before you make a decision.

Anne Read-Andersen

4/3/2017

The suggested eastgate location is way too close to schools and residential area.

Patricia Mc

4/3/2017

Two of the reasons that have been given for why it is not suitable for the homeless shelter & supportive housing to be located at the Lincoln Center property (where the current temporary shelter & day center are located) are:

1. Sound Transit will run through it
2. The Grand Connection will run through it

That made me curious. This is a large piece of property, as you can see in KC_Lincoln_Center.pdf. (At this point, I recommend you print out both of the attached files & set them out on a table in front of you. Both are maps & you will want to see how they can be overlaid.) So I wondered, could all 3 projects co-exist on that site?

I contacted Sound Transit's Eastlink – near Downtown Bellevue contact person to try to find specifics of where Eastlink will run through the property. Blake Jones sent the email below, along with the attached file LincolnCenter.pdf. If you look carefully, you can see that Eastlink runs right through the faint lines of the northern building. However, after Eastlink is completed, Blake states that Sound Transit will only need a relatively small easement and paving or grass or whatever format the Grand Connection takes, should be allowed under it & beside it. That leaves a large area of available land on the Lincoln Center site. A large area that could be used in part, for a permanent men's low-barrier homeless shelter & supportive housing.

According to KingCounty.gov, the Eastgate Public Health site is 179,903 sq. ft. and Lincoln Center is 184,005 sq. ft. When you look at the Eastgate Public Health site on maps the city has provided for this project, the proposed shelter & supportive housing appears to use about 1/3rd of the site, which is 59,968 sq. ft. Even if the shelter & supportive housing used only 1/3rd of Lincoln Center's 184,000 sq. ft., the resulting 61,334 sq. ft. is not only comparable to the Eastgate Public Health site, it is slightly larger. I don't believe there are any detailed maps available, yet, on the Grand Connection, but this leaves more than 1/3rd of the property that could be used for it. It sure looks to me like it would be possible for all 3 projects to co-exist on this one property. And wouldn't that be a fiscally-wise use of a taxpayer asset? It also sounds like an opportunity to craft a press release, telling residents how you are stewarding our assets so well, that you can accomplish (in conjunction with Sound Transit) 3 projects on only 1 piece of property.

Michelle Wannamaker

4/3/2017

I live in the Bellevue College area (In the homes near the baseball fields) and my neighborhood would be negatively impacted by this shelter. I have 3 small children in elementary and middle school. I am not willing to risk their safety with a low barrier men's shelter nearby. I believe strongly in helping others but not at the risk of innocent children. The location is wrong. Low Barrier is especially wrong. I bought my home in Bellevue for the safety and security in which to raise my family. We need to consider an industrial/business district where hundreds of children in their own homes and neighborhoods are not at risk. I have signed the petition against this shelter but I understand these voices may not be heard.

Please take this email into consideration and let MY voice be heard on behalf of my children for the sake of our future generation.

Kristen Miyakawa

4/3/2017

Please be advised that I am AGAINST the Low Barrier Men's Shelter in Eastgate.

Gilda Oliverio

4/3/2017

I am a resident of the Eastgate area of Bellevue and I am opposed to the location of the men's shelter proposed to be located nearby. I am concerned for the safety of my family, the well being of my neighborhood, and for the schools nearby: Bellevue College and Eastside Christian School. Additionally, this will affect property values, hurting the local residents twice - once with potential safety issues, and secondly financially. We moved here specifically because we like the neighborhood and the city; and we're paying \$5,000+ per year in property taxes for the privilege.

It also seems like the proposed location won't be good for the residents of the facility: Are the following within walking distance? A variety of low or no-skill jobs with job placement assistance. A grocery store. A free health facility with addiction care. It seems that to properly help the homeless problem, there needs to be a collection of solutions; not just beds.

Please consider other locations that are more appropriate for helping homeless men and their situations.

Mike Minahan

4/3/2017

I understand there is City Counsel meeting tonight focusing on the due diligence reports regarding the proposed low-barrier men's shelter in Bellevue. Unfortunately, I'll be unable to attend this meeting so I thought I would try to connect with you via email instead.

My husband and I bought a house and moved to the Robinswood neighborhood last year. We are constantly pleasantly surprised how much we love Bellevue and haven't regretted our purchase/move at all. That is until we learned about the proposed shelter.

To put this in perspective and tell you a little about myself, my career is helping under-served populations and I've been a long-term volunteer at a homeless shelter in Tacoma. In addition, I've lived in a place that became a "homeless magnet" due to poorly planned services/logistics. I consider myself a very empathetic person who recognizes that homelessness is probably one of the biggest concerns in our county. Given all this, I am so surprised a low-barrier men's shelter is even being considered for the Eastgate location.

This flyer (http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Parks/mens_homeless_shelter_FAQs.pdf), I believe created by the city, states that the city and county are proposing this "non-residential" location for the shelter. I was shocked when I read that statement. I'm not familiar with the zoning in the city, but that location is far from non-residential. Hundreds of families live within roughly a mile of the proposed location. Do they not count as "residential" simply because they live in town homes? To call the area "non-residential" seems appallingly disrespectful to the residents who actually live there. There are true "non-residential" locations within Bellevue and this is far from one of them. Is this site being considered because the surrounding neighborhoods aren't Bellevue's most expensive?

The "low-barrier" aspect of the shelter means it will accept and provide services for registered sex-offenders and those with a history of violence. How this can be allowed near so many schools boggles my mind. I may be wrong, but in my research it looks like the proposed site will be directly adjacent to Bellevue College. Will you be able to guarantee to safety of the students?

As I stated earlier in my email, I've lived in a community with a local homeless shelter nearby. Because there is no way any shelter can fill the needs of the surrounding community, there were always more men who needed a bed at the shelter than could be accommodated. Additionally, there was a maximum number of nights one was allowed to stay at the shelter before leaving for a stipulated number of nights. This resulted to the parks and private property nearby being filled with homeless encampments. Property theft became a significant problem and the parks were no longer clean or safe. What's to prevent this from happening to my new neighborhood? I love Robinswood and our surrounding neighborhoods precisely because they are so safe. At any time, I can walk though the wooded trails directly behind my house without hassle or fear.

Because this email is getting too long, I'll wrap up and say simply, this proposed shelter will have real and profound impacts to our neighborhood safety, property values, and the neighborhood climate. I urge you to find a more appropriate location for this shelter. I'm very willing to make sacrifices to make sure everyone has a safe place to sleep at night. I'm unwilling, however, to sacrifice my safety and neighborhood.

Elizabeth Daugherty

4/3/2017

As a resident, I wanted to voice my strong opposition to the current proposal to build a low barrier shelter in Eastgate. I'm especially concerned that not only did the mayor reject the signatures presented in a recent petition opposing the shelter, but that recent documents obtained through the freedom of information act show that the City Council is not being honest with the neighborhood about the potential impact.

I read the due diligence reports that will be presented tonight, and didn't see a single mention of anything close to what you are proposing. Every low barrier shelter site in the report was put in a high crime area with a large existing homeless population.

Eastgate is a residential area with a very small homeless population. To bring 100 dangerous individuals into a residential area just because it's cheaper than putting the shelter downtown (where a large number of the homeless are) is unconscionable.

The churches that bus in non-residents to our meetings shouldn't even be allowed to speak. The churches themselves have rejected the concept of low barrier shelters, so why in the world would they fight to put it in someone else's backyard?

This shelter does not belong anywhere in suburban Bellevue.

Please listen to your constituents, instead of developers and churches they don't want them in their own backyards.

Jennifer Harrington

4/4/2017

I am opposed building the low barrier men's shelter in Eastgate. This location is close to Bellevue college, preschools and many public schools and parks. Putting a low barrier shelter in this area will put the population at risk with more drug addicts, mentally ill and sex offenders in this area. Please reconsider the location of this shelter.

Cecilia Hong

4/4/2017

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.

Raymond Wu

4/4/2017

I just wanted to make sure my signature and comment on the petition, which I know has been submitted to council, was counted. My signature and comments were very well informed at the time. I feel even more informed now and stand firmly by my signature of opposition to this inappropriate location for this shelter. Please hear your constituents and keep Bellevue a safe place for residents and especially children.

Jennifer Harris

I also have a child at the Big Picture school which is barely a mile from this site. The kids at BP also use Robinswood for their PE classes

4/5/2017

I just wanted to let you know, that despite the near-hysterical outcries of some Bellevue residents regarding the proposed men's homeless shelter in Bellevue, I support the idea of having a permanent men's shelter in Bellevue and I think the proposed site is completely workable. I appreciate the research that has gone into finding this site and I appreciate that Bellevue is being proactive in finding housing for these individuals.

I have lived in Bellevue for over 20 years and have watched as the city has tried to fight the image of privilege and elitism. I find it sad that residents would express such an uninformed, reactionary response to this shelter – the assumption being that homeless people are dirty criminals who are only out to steal things out of their cars and reduce their property value. As you know, there is ample evidence to the contrary.

I look forward to Bellevue's compassionate response to homelessness, and, as a teacher, look forward to using this as an educational opportunity for my students and also working with the shelter on service learning projects with my class.

Thank you again for your diligence and hard work, and know that you are supported and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Karen Greytak

4/5/2017

We were unable to attend the public meeting on April 3rd. However, as residents and parents to four children, we would like to voice our concern and strong objection to the proposed men's homeless shelter in the Eastgate area. Statistics prove crime increases where such facilities are located. As conscientious citizens, we hope you will decide to support residents and families and not introduce an element that could cause harm. Do not place a men's homeless shelter in our community.

David and Elise Stokes

4/5/2017

My wife and I own a house in the Eastgate area on 142nd. I was very surprised to read you were considering putting a low barrier men's shelter right near the college and the Park and Ride. For the last 28 years I have worked in downtown Seattle near City Hall and experienced the low-barrier world first hand. Despite a pretty heavy police presence, the local social services have been an endless magnet for crime, public drug use, drinking, urination/defecation and violent behavior. I have been in the middle of guys attacking each other with bats, drunken fights, men chasing people on and off Metro buses and everything else. The local parking lots are havens for drug use and car break-ins and serve as outdoor toilets. The naïve notion of putting a shelter and more near a school, wooded campus and a park and ride makes me think the proponents have never been to Seattle. They sure don't own property or live in the Eastgate area. People with substance issues do not sit

quietly in a shelter all day. They head to the nearest park, bus stop or other structure and drink and do drugs, and once they are high, all bets are off. I do not mean to sound harsh, but that is the reality of it all.

If you really think this idea is a good one, I assume there would be no objection from the Council in putting the shelter in downtown Bellevue near City Hall.

Scott Penner

4/5/2017

I am writing to you today to go on record in my opposition to ANY low-barrier entry homeless shelters being allowed within Bellevue City limits. Bellevue is a beautiful and vibrant city--and we must keep it that way. We cannot afford to let our community go the way of Seattle--our garbage strewn neighbor to the west. While I believe we should provide assistance to verified members of our community who are experiencing difficult times, we should never provide incentives for outside homeless to relocate to Bellevue.

"If you build it, they will come". Truer words were never said. Seattle (and Portland if anyone reading this needs another example) keep providing more spaces and resources for the homeless, and, as one would expect, more homeless keep showing up. If Bellevue allows the building of low barrier shelters, then we will end up with dangerous people (from outside of our city) coming to our city. The particular shelter that is being proposed will allow non-resident convicted criminals, un-medicated persons with severe mental disorders, and untreated addicts/alcoholics to set up residence in Bellevue. **If we build it, they will come.** There is no good reason why we should import the Seattle scourge into our city--if we start down that path, the Eastside's premier city will end up looking and functioning like Seattle: aggressive panhandlers everywhere, people passed out drunk/high on the sidewalks, human excrement on the ground, parks filled with tents, more criminals, open-air drug dealing, garbage and filth strewn streets and parks, discarded needles on playgrounds, etc. Any shelter/services that are provided should be only for (1) people from Bellevue, and (2) those that have met entry barriers that are needed for safety.

Bellevue is a great city full of great people, and deserves representatives that will work to protect the quality of life that we have here--for actual taxpaying residents of the city. When the next election comes, the citizens of Bellevue will remember which of our representatives actually stood up and defended the quality of life for their constituents--and those who did not. I look forward to working toward the defeat of any council member who supports a Seattle style agenda for Bellevue.

Katherine H. Christopherson

4/5/2017

I am writing in support of the proposed men's shelter, housing and services at the property in Eastgate, to be run by Congregations for the Homeless. I am an elder at Overlake Park Presbyterian Church in Bellevue, which has sponsored the Congregations for the Homeless men's shelter on our campus every August for many, many years. We are proud to be able to assist the men involved in this program.

I hope you will listen to the voices of we who have been involved with this organization, and not the fears of individuals who have not.

Housing makes an enormous difference in homeless individual's lives. I work in downtown Seattle and pass numerous homeless men and women each day on the street as I go to work. One of them was a man named

Martin. I saw him regularly begging on the sidewalk; he was filthy, dressed in rags and sometimes drunk or high. I got to know him. Then I didn't see him for several months. I thought he must be dead. Then to my surprise, one day he appeared again on the street corner of 4th & Seneca where I get off the bus. His face and hands were clean. He was not drunk or high. He had been sent to rehab and a social worker had arranged for him to have housing. *Housing and services are making a huge difference in his life.* Martin will never hold a full-time job again; he is on disability due to several issues, but he is just as deserving as you or I of being treated with respect as a fellow human being.

We can, and we should, offer the same helping hand to our neighbors on the Eastside who are homeless among us. The Eastgate location is ideal because it is close to public transportation, yet not directly abutting private residences. This is an excellent, well-thought out and responsible idea. We need this; we also need permanent shelters and services for women and families.

It will shame all of us if we choose to look away and walk by those in need.

Cathy Scheibner

4/5/2017

My name is Amanda Sie and I was born and raised in Cougar Ridge, right by Eastgate. I attended Eastgate Elementary School and Newport High School. I am emailing to indicate my strong advocacy for building the Eastside Men's Shelter at the Eastgate Way location.

Homeless shelters are important institutions for combating social inequality. They will give homeless people a chance to regain a level of dignity and to regain some control so that they can get jobs and avoid dangerous situations. As an incredibly privileged and affluent city, Bellevue should feel compelled to use some of that affluence to help bring more equality to our fellow residents, whether they have homes or not.

While some (older) residents of the area might be expressing concerns about the location of the shelter, their concern about the safety of schools, the park and ride, and Bellevue College are needless because there is already proof that there is no significant increase in crime around homeless shelters. Indeed, the shelter will likely reduce crime in the area because homeless people will have access to resources instead of turning to petty crime. Furthermore, I believe that these residents' concerns are actually masking their prejudices and they will be uncomfortable with having to actually see evidence that there is homelessness in our beloved haven of privilege. I think that the city of Bellevue can rise above these prejudices and establish an institution that communicates that we want to bring equality to everyone.

I hope that the city finds more support for this shelter!

Amanda Sie

4/5/2017

My name is Randolph S. Dearth and I reside at 1883 145th Place SE Bellevue, 98007. I have been a Bellevue resident for just short of 16 years. This is my second input to the Council on the Eastgate location for the homeless shelter. I am supportive of Bellevue developing a shelter for homeless men and of the general outlines of such a shelter outlined in the Due Diligence Report. I am opposed to the Eastgate site for the shelter because of its physical closeness to Bellevue College, the Park & Ride and single family neighborhoods, the lack of a rigorous and transparent process to identify and down select potential sites for consideration and because the the City has yet to develop an intellectually sound and rigorous due diligence process in support of making a sound decision on this homeless shelter issue for the city.

I attended the Council meeting on Monday April 3, 2017 specifically to hear the briefings of the Due Diligence Reports and comments from Council Members on the subject of Bellevue's Men's Homeless Shelter.. I came away both encouraged and concerned. I was encouraged because of Deputy Mayor Chelminiak's comments about the homeless and their support needs and because of the quality of questions Council Members asked to be addressed in greater detail. I am concerned because the Eastgate site was constantly referred to as the "site for the shelter" when there is broad disagreement about this location and the selection process and because Mayor Stokes appears to be decided that the Eastgate location needs to be confirmed as the desired location in the immediate future. Simply put, the site selection process was not rigorous and the City's overall progress toward completing due diligence before proceeding on a shelter at any city location is in the early stages. A good decision on investing in a shelter requires a lot deeper understanding of planned operations, costs, partnerships and control than currently exists. The Due Diligence Reports should be used to inform site selection and other operational issues addressed in the Due Diligence Reports rather than viewed as all required due diligence expected from the City.

Insightful inputs from Deputy Mayor Chelminiak and Council Members Robertson, Wallace and Lee that I believe are required to be addressed before any decision on developing a shelter anywhere in the City include:

- What values do we desire to based the shelter upon? I believe Deputy Mayor Chelminiak's suggestion of Compassion, Responsibility and Success provide an excellent foundation; actually they are completely acceptable to me.
- Who will the City Partner with in addressing this issue? Do these organizations share the same values as the City? I would argue King County, dominated by the City of Seattle, does not share our values and will be a troublesome partner whose contributions are far less than planned, especially in light of the challenges their differing values will bring to the table.
- What do we intend the rules of operation of the facility to be? Hours of operation, entrance requirements, plans for progress tracking, etc
- Who will control the shelter's operations? How does the City ensure it is the controlling agency? Funding equals control and the City should be prepared to fund a significant portion of the shelter and it's operations in order to ensure it is run in accordance with Bellevue's values and desires.
- What are the long-term costs of operating the shelter as it is currently proposed? My personal assessment ranges between \$45M -\$85M over a 10 year period (based on a minimum of 26 employees required to support two independent facilities 24X7 plus the cost of building the shelter).
- What are the likely associated costs, such as additional police staffing requirements, potential transit costs that may be necessary site dependent and other "what if" requirements once the shelter is operating (e.g., what if a support agency pulls out of providing support at the shelter - how is it replaced?).
- What additional City actions such as new or revised regulations will be required in order to achieve the overall goal being pursued (e.g., parking and camping regulations).

I assert that the site selection process was inadequate because it lacked specific requirements that would be used to identify all potential locations within the city, both publicly owned or available for purchase; it lacked site selection criteria that would allow individual sites to be objectively assessed and prioritized (e.g., Security of any location could be objectively assessed by multiple factors such as police/ambulance response time should incidents occur involving shelter residents; security of surrounding neighborhoods could be assessed by distances of the shelter from schools, single family neighborhoods; general security could be assessed as distances from areas where there are large congregations of people and pilfer-able property (e.g., the Park and Ride); cost of security could be estimated by assessments of additional expenses required to provide additional police presence to assure timely response, physical presence, etc). The site selection process should be revisited using a rigorous process that includes potential purchase of available land; a \$2.5M investment in a \$45M-\$85M facility/program is insignificant if it yields a superior long-term location that

maximizes success of the program - here the City needs to be able to define a successful outcome. Revisiting the site selection can be accomplished concurrently with completion of appropriate due diligence in the areas of partnerships, control and funding such that it will not incur additional delay in the overall effort to establish the shelter. I view the City as not yet sufficiently informed to make a decision of this financial and community impacting magnitude based on the Due Diligence Reports briefed on April 3rd; several additional months of work and research is required before sufficient depth of understanding on many critically important issues is available to Council Members.

Pending completion of a broad-based, issue-focused, rigorous and transparent due diligence process and the City's ability to articulate a vision and an executable plan of action to accomplish the vision for a Men's Homeless Shelter, I support:

- City of Bellevue establishing a Low Barrier Men's Homeless Shelter within the City
- A raise in property tax rates to fund such a shelter as long as the City of Bellevue is in full control of Shelter Operations

I do not support moving forward with any commitment on the Eastgate location until the City completes adequate due diligence on the issues involved over the long-run.

Randolph S. Dearth

4/5/2017

I have lived in Bellevue for 8 years and am emailing to express my strong SUPPORT for the Eastside Men's Shelter. It's important for this social service to be accessible and located near public transportation and other services. It is a great opportunity to build relationships between the affluent community and one that is stigmatized and marginalized by it.
Grace Chai

4/5/2017

My name is Daniel Anderson. I am a citizen of Bellevue and I am writing this email to express my support for the men's shelter being built.

I was adopted from China when I was almost five years old. Since then I have lived in Bellevue for the past 15 years. I am privileged to live here. I am privileged and grateful for the life that I get to live because of the support of my family and the everyday people that I come into contact with that make our city great.

With that being said, the life that I live all started with a choice. It is because of my family choosing me that I was able to come here, graduate Newport High School and be able to go to college and continue to pursue my dreams. In that same way, it is cardinal to recognize doing good and changing lives all can start with a choice.

I've been fortunate enough to call Bellevue my home, but I understand that not everyone else has that luxury. I think it is crucial that our city gives those without a home the shelter, safety, and resources inalienable to them as human beings. Needless to say, it is also cardinal for people to have access to public transportation and the health clinic.

I am a firm believer in home being wherever someone precious thinks of you. Well, by writing this to you, I want you to know that for the homeless community, Bellevue can still be a home for them.

Change is almost always met with resistance. It hurts my heart knowing some in our community is so unnerved by having to face their privilege in the form of those not of the same socioeconomic standing as them. A homeless shelter

in the middle of our grandiose city will be uncomfortable to some. However, the discomfort those of a less altruistic and more privileged background will feel pales in comparison to the discomfort of not having warmth, a cozy place to sleep, food, or a kindred sense of community among other basic needs.

It should be the duty of those with the capacity and resources to help others. The construction of the shelter would grant those in need a sense of dignity. It could also be a great volunteering opportunity for local high school students.

I had an opportunity to participate in Sleepless in Seattle, a huge sleeping bag distribution effort to the Seattle and Bellevue community. I will never forget the arduous night my group had as we were failing to find those in need of a sleeping bag in Bellevue during our night out. I was starting to lose hope, but we found a man right in downtown Bellevue by Bell Square. We handed a bag. I will never forget the smile and surprised gratitude on his face. It was bittersweet knowing he couldn't have been that much older than me.

I want others to be able to have a chance to volunteer. This shelter doesn't just have to touch the lives living in them, but the lives of a community that should wake up and embrace those that live different lives than them.

Thank you in advance for reading.

I wish you all the best in your efforts to ameliorate the lives of those in our city.

-Daniel Anderson

4/6/2017

While unable to attend the April 17 study session I will continue to follow this issue. The recent Seattle Times article on the past study session broke no new ground as those opposed to the shelter remain entrenched in their unwillingness to even consider the data-based, policy and social benefit justifications for the facility. The Council should move forward.
Tony Mozella

4/6/2017

I am strongly against having a men's shelter like this due to it being so close to Bellevue college and the increased risk to students.

Julie McDaniel

4/6/2017

Thanks for your email. I caught part of the discussion on Monday and thought it was a good one. After listening to the discussion, I think the best I can hope for is that the staff will pursue and give an honest look at other sites. My preference would be downtown, away from single family neighborhoods and close to the other services cited as needs.
Joel Glass

4/6/2017

Something I forgot to add was that having homelessness this close to our children's lives may communicate the misconception that this is an acceptable alternative to a normal life when it is most certainly not.

Shannon Beverly

4/6/2017

I plan to be there on the 17th showing my support.

I work and go to church in Bellevue, but recently moved to Renton after 14 years in Bellevue. So I am likely not a good candidate to speak.

I have sent the information to other friends as well, and am trying to help drum up more support.

Thanks for all the good you do for our community!

Ali Schoos

4/7/2017

I attended the April 3 session at 6:30 and the following Council meeting on the topic of the Eastgate Low Barrier Men's Homeless Shelter. It was beneficial to attend and hear first-hand the opinion of the council members who represent me, and all the Bellevue residents and taxpayers at the meeting.

It is apparent that the council is divided on siting the LOW Barrier Men's Shelter in Eastgate. It is also apparent that there is resistance to moving ahead with any proposed shelter given the many unknowns and unanswered questions around this project. Moreover, it is very apparent that select Councilmen have a vested interest in sealing the deal on this Low Barrier Shelter.

I request the COB council seriously consider keeping the shelter in its current location. I understand that there is a substantial cost to do this. I understand that refurbishing the site would be necessary for CfH to implement the program it hopes to provide to homeless men. *Building a brand new facility in Eastgate will cost money, also.* If the city believes that the site where this low barrier homeless shelter is located has little impact on its surroundings, please keep it in its current site. Both council members, COB employees and CfH state it has been run successfully for 8 years, though minimal stats have been produced/provided on outcomes. Furthermore, the site is in a commercial zone, near medical centers equipped with social workers and 24-hour emergency medical facilities and the Bellevue transit Center, and has a strong police presence in the neighborhood.

The COB could use funds it collected from Wright Runstad, when WR bought their way out of the inclusion of affordable housing in the new Spring District development, to help towards the refurbishing or reconstruction of the current shelter in downtown Bellevue. Shouldn't this money be earmarked for a project like the low barrier homeless shelter? As a taxpayer, I certainly hope these funds won't be used for the Installation Art Bellevue hopes to place "strategically" throughout the city to beautify it. The irony would be palpable.

As a resident who will be greatly impacted by the siting of this low barrier shelter in Eastgate, I am not satisfied with what I heard at the April 3 meeting or what I have read about this process. The decision to site this low barrier shelter in Eastgate was clouded in secrecy; there was no transparency to the process. Subsequently there is no trust in the City Council or the COB Planning Commission. Funding for the project is nebulous. There are no guarantees for initial funding. There are no guarantees that funding will continue. There is no guarantee that a heightened police presence will be in the area. There are no guarantees about anything related to this project except the certainty that John Chelminiak and John Stokes want this project done, regardless of the impact. Yet residents are left dealing with the aftermath, with no guarantees from the COB, city council people, CfH or King County.

The specious arguments put forth by John Chelminiak that the shelter is no different than a shopping mall, and the comment shared by (I believe) the CfH director that 50% of the population fit the low barrier definition left me incredulous. Please help me understand how a low barrier men's homeless shelter located in a residential neighborhood is the equivalent to Bellevue Square or any other shopping mall. I go to a mall willingly-a conscious decision on my part. I have no choice about the impact a low barrier mens shelter will have on my neighborhood, my safety, and daily life. If 50% of the population fits the "low barrier" definition. That would mean that 50% of COB council is low barrier as well as half of the attendees in the room. Does this description fit the people sitting on the COB council?

The facts remain:

This PUBLIC conversation began in August 2016, *8 months ago*.

At that time it was announced that Eastgate was proposed site of the Mens Low Barrier Shelter; The Eastgate location runs counter to current zoning in the area, along with environmental studies indicating that construction of the facility in the proposed location will cause degradation to the surrounding hillside, and remove the so called "buffer" b/t the shelter and Bellevue College.

Zoning for the proposed Men's Low Barrier Shelter is not included in the Eastgate TOD

The selection process did not include the public and there was no transparency about the decision to site the shelter in Eastgate;

Crime stats were tempered to indicate a different reality experienced by St Peter's Church and another site at 120th Ave NE when they hosted temporary shelters at their facilities. NOTE: These facilities have declined the opportunity to host a homeless shelter on their properties due to the negative experience they and their neighbors had. This data was uncovered by the FOIA, not openly presented by COB to Bellevue residents.

In the same vein, COB tempered their findings on the negative impact of property values proximate to low barrier shelters. Again, this data was uncovered through the FOIA, not willingly disclosed by COB or the COB Council.

The Shelter was originally slated to be built in the Spring District-formerly an industrial warehouse district in COB, prior to Wright Runstad's development of the area.

Funding for the shelter has not been secured, for building facilities, for mental health programs, for security, for vocational training programs...for nothing.

Support for the shelter is primarily voiced by individuals, religious interests and businesses that will not be impacted by the Eastgate location on a daily or long-term basis.

Congregation for the Homeless has never run a facility of this scope and have no viable stats to support their statements. This was voiced by a CfH employee (David ?) at an early March meeting at a church in Factoria.

Please do not site the Low Barrier Men's Shelter in Eastgate. It is not an appropriate site. Placement of this type of social service in a neighborhood with schools serving students in Pre-K-Higher ED, and in close proximity to residences, including Section 8 housing, condominiums and single family residences is not something that I support. The need for the shelter is undisputed. The COB has not managed this issue with honesty or candor. It is challenging to put faith and confidence in the City Council when the manner in which the Low Barrier Men's Shelter has been mismanaged and obfuscated.

Thank you for reading this letter, and taking into consideration my request and comments.

MaryBeth John

4/7/2017

The Housing First model (<https://www.pathwayshousingfirst.org> with Dr. Sam Tsembaris) came out of an attempt to give mental health and services to the homeless, but the homeless person's first priority was a home. This model has found success through being client driven. It appears to me that the county and Congregations for the Homeless are trying to use the Housing First mode or some derivative of it, but it is not clear that they are using all the elements of the model to make it successful. My understanding is that if the Housing First model is used, it is the program that happens after a person moves into housing that is the key. The results are only achieved if the Housing First program is not done on the cheap. There other systems, but Housing First is said to the most successful for chronic homelessness.*

This is a complicated system for which I have no background. I feel that we won't be able to make a good decision on the shelter site without understanding the context. This is what I learned.

Housing First might be better called Person First. Housing is just the first intervention along an educational and recovery path of fully, supported self-determination toward independent citizens in the community.

Other programs that focus on "they are just like us" have not had the Housing First level of success because they not do not put the emphasis of the big problems: mental health, addiction, path out of jail, or never having had a place of their own to manage. Housing is just the first service. "Just like us" is correct that they want self-determination.

Five principles of the Housing First Program

- Immediate access to housing with no readiness conditions
- Consumer choice and self-determination
- Recovery orientation
- Individualized and person-driven supports
- Social and community integration

Housing First on the cheap does not get the 80-90% results. Key mistakes are

- Normal housing with a landlord and a case manager visit
- Caseloads too high for the kind of home visits
- Many kinds of supports not provided, or not by the right method: directly or indirectly
- Allow client to choose not to have home visits or don't have them the right timing

Housing First done right has the following aspects:

1. **Client driven services:** Immediate access to housing with no readiness condition. Services are not lost if housing is lost or do not participate in treatment
2. **Single site:** first housing post shelter on-site with services
3. **Right amount of support** for the people with the conditions you need to help: cases manager, assertive community treatment, integrated health practice, mental health, etc.
4. **Recovery focus:** Client driven treatment plan – they do treatment when they are ready for it
5. **Get operations right:** shelter stays are very short, the team knows where everyone in the community is – not just the shelter folks but the housing folks, home visits that are adjustable and frequent for when people need them, services are available when they are needed, etc.

For Bellevue

Complementary associated services on-site according to CFH site:

- Medical and dental services
- Housing placement
- Case management
- Mental Health services
- Employment support
- DSHS benefit enrollment
- Addiction recovery
- Legal assistance

CFH is running the shelter. Do they provide all of the services? Does the county provide any?
Does Who ensures that the services can meet the volume and provide the level needed?

References

- *<http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/solutions>
- <http://hf.aeips.pt/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Tseberis.pdf>
- <https://www.pathwayshousingfirst.org>

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/08882746.2017.1293429>

“Changing the Conversation” podcasts, especially May 17, 2016

Pamela Johnston

4/7/2017

I am a longtime Robinswood homeowner who is extremely opposed to the shelter being built in this location. Not only would the Eastgate location for this shelter be terrible for the area's schools, parks, park and ride, homes and businesses, but it would be terrible for the men in the shelter because they would be put in the position of constantly being tempted to reoffend with so many temptations right outside the doors of the shelter. These are men that have serious sexual and drug addictions and it is inevitable that terrible offenses will happen such as rape and possibly murder like the one that was committed in 2005 by the homeless man at Bellevue College. That was committed in broad daylight by the way, right at the top of the hill on the path to the college behind where the shelter would be built. A student walking came upon the man in the act of raping the woman he had just strangled to death.

Drug addicts will be breaking into the cars in the Park and Ride and could easily assault and/or rape and kill women and anyone else. This Park and Ride is a huge multi-level building packed full of cars every day. It would be extremely easy to hide and assault someone and escape from being caught since it has so large. I parked there during the day recently and had to go to the very top of it to find a parking place.

No one was around and all I could think about was getting out of there quickly because I was so alone and vulnerable, and what it would be like if the men's shelter was next door how even more frightening it would be. It is a no-brainer that this location should never have been even considered.

I just found out last week that homeless men who are staying at a church that put in 20 beds for them by the Eastgate shopping area two years ago have been harassing and intimidating elderly women for money at the Eastgate shopping area. These elderly women have been going to the Hairmasters' Salon next to the Albertson's at Eastgate for many years on a weekly basis and stopped going there because of this. The woman running that salon told me this just last week when I got my hair cut, and that this is partially the reason that this salon was going to close, and it just did. Also she said there have been two robberies at the 31 Flavors store in the past year and that it is going to close. This is the shopping area closest to where that shelter would be and this is where those men would go to hang out.

There are places this shelter can be built that are not going to put people and businesses in danger. It is irresponsible and dangerous for all concerned for this shelter to be put in this location. It needs to be in an industrial area where homeowners, schools and businesses are not nearby and the City Council needs to take more time and look for an appropriate location instead of trying to solve their problem quickly and thoughtlessly.

Thank you,

Cathy Daniels

4/7/2017

I'm hearing a lot of concern about this summer becoming a mess of encampments and related crime. Will our trails and parks be safe? Will smash and grabs become the norm in park parking lots? Will our green space in our private lands be overrun? Will camps be allowed?

What can the neighborhoods expect at the end of the month when the temporary shelter closes at the end of April?

What are the expectations for where these people will go? What are the numbers?

How do people get connected with services during this time? Is there a break from the program to end homelessness?

If this has already been covered, please point me to where I can link people to.

Pamela Johnston

4/7/2017

I am very concerned about the placement of the men's homeless shelter. I have heard it is not a restricted shelter meaning it can house mentally ill and addicts.

This makes me very fearful. I used to live in Eastgate. I think I saw the homeless man that killed the pregnant DSHS worker years ago. I saw him walking up the street agitated and talking to himself.

A homeless man burnt down the Bellevue Muslim Center.

About a month ago I called the police when I saw a very agitated man yelling profanities at cars driving in Lake Hills. I work at Kaiser Permanente previously Group Health. I drive west on Bel Red and often see many men crossing Bel Red usually running across the road.

This morning I was late to work and a man ran through cars on 116th. He then through his hat over the cars and then drug his foot to make me wait to turn. Obviously he was angry and unbalanced. I didn't care that he made me wait but I was worried he might assault someone. Shelters are not a replacement for mental health or addiction. This is unsafe for our community.

Phileo McAlexander

4/10/2017

Please vote against siting a 100 bed low-barrier shelter + 125 person "day center" in Eastgate. Please allow yourselves adequate time to fully study this issue. Please read the compendium put together by the Eastgate Residents Committee. Please do not be swayed by Seattle Times or Ms. Balducci. They are not looking out for Bellevue's best interest. Seattle is ultimate example of what NOT to do when it comes to homelessness. Do it the Bellevue Way. Don't rush into decisions that will have permanent impacts on our city. Protect our families.

Bellevue has compassion. We also have wisdom. Let's create a smart plan that we can all support.

Matt Williams

4/10/2017

Please reconsider the location of the proposed low barrier men's shelter in Eastgate. This plan affects me personally as my home is walking distance from the proposed shelter area and affects my neighborhood as we fear for our safety, the safety of our children and our property values. I am aware of other proposed sites that are much better suited and well away from neighborhoods and schools.

If we are ignored and the shelter goes up in our neighborhood, can you tell me what the City of Bellevue intends to do to insure the safety of residents, children and pets included, and residents property? Will we be compensated for the decline in our property values?

As you can tell, it is very important to me as a resident of Bellevue (Eastgate) that my voice be registered. Registered in the same regard as a resident in a more affluent area of our beautiful city.

Thank you for listening. I appreciate your efforts on behalf of Eastgate residents.

Julie Isenhardt

4/10/2017

City Council,

Well thank goodness a neighbor told me about the plan to build a permanent low-barrier shelter adjacent to Bellevue College, or I wouldn't have known until it is too late to register my opinion. Which I cynically suspect it may already be -- my neighbor said they heard that a council member had said offline that it's "already a done deal" -- but still, here is my opinion. I hope you will consider it, and give it the weight warranted by my living near this site.

As housing for men with addiction issues and/or criminal records, this shelter poses grave danger to people who live and work nearby. These include:

- o families living in large condo complexes and single-family households near by
- o Children in nearby preschools and day care centers, of which there are several, including: BigPicture, Chestnut Hill Academy, Eastside Christian ... View more Academy, Bellevue College & BC Preschool, Eastgate Elementary, Tyee Middle School, Newport High School, Puesta del Sol Elementary, Sammamish High School, plus other private preschools and daycares in the area.
- o Bellevue School District students riding Metro as their schoolbus, including those from all high schools, Big Picture Middle School Students, and International School Middle School. These will be students aged 11-18 unaccompanied mid-afternoon at Eastgate P&R, near the shelter housing criminals and addicts. Very dangerous! Of course, many families drive their kids to school -- those that can afford to. I expect it's the lower-income families who need to use the buses.

Which leads to my next objection:

- I don't think it's coincidental that the permanent shelter is proposed for one of Bellevue's least affluent neighborhoods. A web search of median and average household income in Bellevue zip codes shows 98005 to be near the bottom. I expect that's the *real* reason for selecting this location for the shelter, because those of us living in this zip code are not among the Council's wealthiest friends, family, and constituents. And I'm tired of being demonized by people who live in richer zip codes -- much further from the proposed site! -- for my not being charitable. To those of you outside 98006 who are so in favor of this proposal: I'm all for it if we move the site to YOUR neighborhood! So here are some alternate proposals:
 - o There must be room near the South Bellevue Park and Ride! And with that location, the shelter population could more easily get to both Seattle and Bellevue via public transport.
 - o How about near Mercer Island Park & Ride? Just a short walk from many civic services in downtown Mercer Island.
 - o The Park & Ride at Grace Lutheran church is also close to civic services in downtown Bellevue
 - o 32nd Street Park & Ride again provides convenient public transport to both Seattle and Bellevue, and is close to civic services in Factoria.
 - o And there are other P&R potential sites, and other neighborhoods that offer civic services.

When people in other zipcodes still support the low-barrier shelter in THEIR OWN neighborhoods, that is when those opinions should be given due consideration. For others to "support" putting this dangerous shelter in MY neighborhood is meaningless and hypocritical.

My final objection:

There's no denying that a shelter housing addicts and criminals will reduce property values of housing nearby. As recently noted on a Seattle real-estate site: ["Clearly, some home buyers will take the proximity of a homeless shelter into account in their home-buying analysis. This can affect resale prices and overall values."](#) One of the houses near the proposed location is MINE. So yes, this does concern me as it will directly affect me. I'm tired of people from wealthier zip codes dismissing this concern. It's true, if you live in ANOTHER ZIP CODE, then this shelter proposal will not affect YOUR property values. And again, if you're so sure it won't affect mine, then 1) I think you are wrong, and 2) feel free to propose a site in your neighborhood!

Lastly, a question for the council: Why not keep the shelter where it's currently located, on 116th? That is, make the temporary site permanent? That site's at least as good as Eastgate, as far as proximity to services (hospital; library; public transportation; state, city, and federal gov't services in downtown Bellevue), and not so close to as many schools, school-children, pre-schools, and daycares. I suspect the reason that the shelter is moving from this site to Eastgate is

the household demographics, specifically in terms of wealth. Also, downtown business interests carry more clout with the Council, than homeowners in Bellevue's poorest neighborhoods.

When I moved to this neighborhood not long ago, one of my new neighbors welcomed me to the "Bellevue slums." Now I see clearly what he meant.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

--Concerned 98005 resident, and Eastgate P&R commuter (single, female) S. Mings

4/8/2017

Dear City Council,

I live in Spiritridge and, unlike some of my neighbors, I support a homeless shelter near the Park and Ride. Homeless people have to go somewhere, and the ones that are least likely to be offered shelter are men. I agree that there might be some problems, but it also will get some of those guys out of more residential neighborhoods. Because it is near the transit center, they would be able to get to appointments for jobs or WorkSource or to find more permanent housing.

Judy Ronningen

4/8/2017

Please reconsider the current proposed location for this shelter. Bellevue is, has always been, and will continue to be, a highly-populated suburban landscape. This location is within walking distance of the college, parks, park and ride where young women take the bus to Seattle for work. It is located near walking trails where our children play.

I imagine this location was selected for its proximity to many of these facilities and to local shopping. BUT that does not warrant the risk it would introduce to local residents who bought homes in the area partly because of the low crime rate and access to the best schools in the country. Finding a location close to a bus line would accomplish the same thing in a less populated area. It does not, and should not, be put in the middle of the facilities that support an established suburban population.

I believe this proposed location is bringing a big city problem to the suburbs, not solving a problem we have on the Eastside in any great numbers. Would you put a "no questions asked needle exchange" in Medina? No. Why would you put a men's shelter in the middle of upper-end suburbia? It just doesn't make sense. It makes no sense for anyone.

My sister has worked with addiction. She counseled alcoholics, drug addicts, gamblers. The success rate is not great. To plop these people down in Bellevue and think they will be cured, find friendships, jobs and affordable housing is naïve. They will not be received kindly I'm afraid and it will just exacerbate their mental issues and isolate them from society even further. They may have fallen from high places, but it is a long climb back up. Putting them in a location where they will feel so different is not in their best interests either.

I have great compassion for people living on the edge, for people with drug and alcohol problems and those suffering from PTSD. I volunteer to help twice a week. I have lost friends to alcohol, to drugs. I have several friends who never recovered from PTSD. Endangering our local children, commuters and making our parks and trails places to be approached with extreme caution is not the answer. I know first hand drug addicts will steal from their own families. I have watched an alcoholic cost his son his job showing up at his office repeatedly. This is after completing rehab 3 times. I wholeheartedly support the building of a facility such as this - just not in the middle of suburbia. There are some who escape their demons, but there are a greater number who do not. Those people should not be picked up and brought to Bellevue.

I am not stating "not in my backyard". I am stating "not in anyone's backyard". This facility belongs in a less-populated area or more commercial area close to a bus line.

There are laws that prohibit the proximity of gun stores, of pot shops to schools and parks. Why on earth would you import sex offenders, drug addicts and alcoholics to the center of suburbia a stones throw away from a college? From walking trails used by local homeowners?

Please reconsider this proposal. It just doesn't make sense.
Elizabeth Hill

4/10/2017

Council members, The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population
Cynthia Vautier

4/10/2017

The location for the low barrier men's shelter next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put our most vulnerable citizens in the area at risk. The council needs to continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population.
Jean John

4/10/2017

Thank you. I also received a correspondence from the Mayor (noting that my zip code referral was wrong, and that there are wealthy neighborhoods in 98005), and here is that exchange. I do stand corrected re the specific zip code, but my bigger point still stands. The Mayor and Council are putting this dangerous facility in MY neighborhood, because it is one of the poorest in Bellevue. Thank you for considering this input.

Thank you for considering my input. The Mayor helpfully corrected me on my geography. I stand corrected about the exact zip code. However, my fundamental point still stands: Elected Bellevue officials are putting this dangerous facility in the poorest neighborhood in Bellevue, and I can only assume that's because it's the least important neighborhood to them.

At any rate, I would like to add the Mayo's email to me, and my response to him, to the record also. See below. And thank you for considering my opinion -- if you are. I do not expect anything to change. Except my future municipal votes. But like I said, I don't think that's a primary consideration for any of the decision makers. Nor is the quality of life in my neighborhood. And I get it -- I'd be supportive of this dangerous facility in someone else's back yard, too. I like to think I wouldn't demonize its future neighbors with their valid concerns, is all.

Mr. Mayor,

Thank you; I appreciate your response. However, it strengthens my point. (And it's hard to tell on a map.) The fact that this dangerous facility is actually in zip code 98007 puts it in an EVEN POORER zip (median household income \$75,591), and as you note, removes some of the wealthier Bellevue neighborhoods from being in that same zip code. I venture to guess that you and Ms. Robinson do not live in the Eastgate area of 98005.... And regardless of the exact zip code, 98005 or 98007, that dangerous facility is less than a mile from ME!, and I use the P&R often for evening trips to Seattle. No more; I won't dare to return to the P&R alone after dark. I also have good friends who own condos adjacent to the site, and I'm upset about the expected decrease in their property values. Which will probably be percentage wise greater than the corresponding decrease in my home's value, since I am *a little* bit further from this dangerous facility.

Ms. Mings

Dear Ms. Mings,

Thank you for your comments on the proposed Eastgate location of a permanent location for the men's shelter. I will reply to you on specific concerns you have, but wanted to note that the 98005 zip code is one that stretches all the way North from I-90 up to Northrup Way and I-520, and East of I-405. It encompasses a wide variety of homes and may reflect an overall lower property valuation average compared to other zip codes. There are several high value areas such as Woodridge, Wilburton, parts of the area North of N.E. 8th, along with smaller and lower valued homes and a mix of apartments in the area.

The proposed shelter is actually not in zip code 98005, but is instead in the 98007 zip code, in the middle of Eastgate. To the East of that is the 98008 zip code, which goes over to Lake Samammish, and both of these areas have many high value homes as well as more moderately valued ones. I would not call any of these areas "slums." Compared to some areas of Bellevue of course, they are very modest.

I also wanted to note that two current Bellevue City Councilmembers live in the 98005 zip code area and have for many years and are supportive of the Eastgate site as a potential one for the shelter. That would be me and Councilmember Lynne Robinson.

Again, thank you for you comments.

John Stokes

Mayor

4/10/2017

The location for the low barrier men's shelter in Bellevue next to the preschools, college and P&R is inappropriate and will put citizens of Bellevue in the area at risk. The council should continue studying other sites best suited for the low barrier homeless population which doesn't adversely affect rest of the citizens of Bellevue. I hope the council will make the right decision to help citizens of Bellevue and not succumb to other outside pressures as you are elected to server city of Bellevue and citizens of Bellevue.

Thanks,

Aman Bhardwaj

4/11/2017

Please consider another location other than the Eastgate site. It is too close to BCC and our neighborhood. We have issues already with encampments at the 150th Ave overpass and along the freeway access near Albertson's and the Korean restaurant. The pan handlers and encampments have no consideration for our neighborhood, the area looks like a garbage dump once they make a camp. There are also people staying under the walking overpass at I-90. If there isn't room in the shelter the overflow will continue to camp out in the area to pan handle on the corners. There is plenty of overgrowth in and around the area to make it easy for those not in the shelter to stay under the radar.

Linda Henriksen

4/11/2017

I thank you for taking the time to read this, as I know you receive many emails, but I feel I should provide some insight as to why I feel so strongly that the men's low barrier homeless shelter poses tremendous risk to our city as a whole.

I understand there is a need to address the homeless issues for our Bellevue residents who are fighting to survive and can't seem to catch a break to better their situation. The challenge is helping those who are desperately trying to change their circumstances, while not enabling those who don't care to change. This is where it is critical we draw the line somewhere, or not only will we enable those who actively choose to continue making poor choices, but we'll also limit our ability to assist those who are desperately trying to better their circumstances.

My experience explains why I feel this low barrier (no barrier) site is 100% inappropriate for this location, or any other location for that matter.

As a single mother of three who works as hard as I possibly can to provide for my family, I feel as though the city of Bellevue is no longer looking out for my family's best interest. Drug use is a serious problem among our homeless population, and has been the cause for some of them becoming homeless. My family has personally experienced this and understands the transition of a gainfully employed man to a drug user, criminal, and being homeless. My husband worked for King County for almost 20 years, and when my twin boys were born, he became addicted to drugs which he started using so he wouldn't fall asleep at work. On three occasions he admitted he had a drug problem and each time we tried to get him into rehab, but in every instance we had to wait a few days for an appointment, at which time he was no longer willing to go. He eventually lost his job as a result of his drug use, his drug use increased and progressed to different drugs, his circle of friends changed to fellow drug users, and he became involved in criminal activity. I kept trying to help him, but he refused to make any changes and within a year, he didn't seem at all like the man I'd always known. The most difficult thing I've ever had to do in my life was to stop helping him...it is crushing to force someone you love with all your heart out of your home hoping they will hit rock bottom before it's too late and realize they need to make a change.

The reason this information is important for you to know is because during this time, I gained tremendous insight into the behavior and transformation of drug addicts and the truth behind how some of these people arrive to have nothing. My husband became an expert at hiding his drug use, and looking at him, one would never know he had this problem. He also became an expert at deception and his story of how he ended up with nothing began to change. For people he would meet, he would tell them a modified version of his life and how he came to be homeless with nothing. He omitted much of the information about his role in becoming homeless.

The circle of friends he began to hang out with changed to other homeless men and women who were also drug users. They all participated in criminal activity ranging from identity theft, breaking into houses, robbery, assault, drug trafficking, and prostitution. They sold and still sell stolen goods online using their mobile phones. Where there once used to be a conscience and moral compass, one no longer exists. I have witnessed and experienced this transition with my husband and seen it in his friends to the point I could no longer allow him to be around because I feared for the safety of my children.

The people he associated with made every attempt to stay away from Bellevue and would only come to the methadone clinic if required to do so. They would immediately go back to Seattle because they feared they would be questioned by the Bellevue police and arrested for their drug use or criminal activity. This fear is the only thing that kept them from coming to Bellevue, and I feel my family is much safer because of that. All of the houses they broke into and people they robbed were in Seattle, because they couldn't get out of here fast enough.

Once we remove the element of fear, and once these homeless drug users and criminals are received here, in Bellevue with open arms, they will communicate this with fellow drug users and criminals, and they will all continue to come over here to stay. I can't even begin to express all the horrible things I fear will happen to our beautiful, safe city, and what it will become. If we build a low barrier shelter for these men, we are letting them all know we accept their behavior, we are enabling them to continue it, and we invite it to our neighborhood.

This is the wrong approach to this problem and not only will we not be helping these men, but by supporting this shelter, you are not doing what is in the best interest of Bellevue. People like myself who cannot afford to sell our home and move somewhere else may lose everything we've worked for all our lives in an attempt to find somewhere safer to live. I've lived in Bellevue almost 35 years and I've never felt there has been such an important decision to be made that could completely change Bellevue for the worst. If it is built, they will come, and I don't think most of you have any idea about the problems you are inviting here. Bellevue will never be the same.

Stef Storseth

4/12/2017

We've been home owners and residence of Bellevue for 23 years. We've seen a significant change over the years as our city has grown. We understand that with growth comes a variety of problems such as traffic, crime and homelessness.

For the past few years we've experienced a significant increase in crime in the summer months when tent city 4 moves into the lot at the Jewish temple on NE 4th street. It has gotten increasingly worse every year. Last summer several of my neighbors had car prowls and home break-ins. One evening we came home to find police had barricaded our street and were searching with police dogs for a suspect who had earlier pounded on our house with our teen age daughter inside. It turned out he and another man were heroin addicts that were trying to hide from police after breaking into cars. Luckily our next door neighbor called police and they were apprehended. If our daughter had opened the door that night there may have been tragic consequences. It is not a coincidence that this our normally quiet neighborhood transforms into an unsafe one during the time the tent city moves in. Whether or not they were tent city residents, it attracts these people into our neighborhood and increases crime. We have never been notified of when it is coming or given a say. I believe they keep it quiet intentionally so that the neighbors who live and pay taxes here can't object. I believe it is the city's responsibility to notify every resident within least 5 miles when this is coming as well as inform us of the opportunity to voice our opinions ahead of time. Again, we live only 2 blocks away, less than a quarter mile, and have never been given notice!

And now the men's shelter is moving into Eastgate, with close proximity to Bellevue college where our daughter and many other high school age kids attend school every day. I believe this is a terrible idea and believe strongly that it will attract more crime to our area. The Bellevue suburbs are not the same as urban Seattle, and shouldn't be a place to house people with mental illness and drug problems, and possibly criminal pasts.

Thank you for reading this and helping protect our Bellevue neighborhoods and way of life.

Dana Dysart

4/12/2107

Good evening Mr. Mayor and members of the council. My name is Sue Johnson and I live in Robinswood in Bellevue.

I have an advanced degree in clinical psychology. I have worked with the chronically mentally ill, the chemically dependent and the homeless. I have been a case manager, an MHP and a supervisor at an involuntary treatment facility. As a member of a well trained and professional staff, I never had to call the police. I never expected them to do my job. Every facility in which I worked was all gender and we did not reject anyone for behavioral issues. In fact, behavioral issues is what brought most clients to us.

In my professional opinion, Eastgate is not a viable option for the shelter being proposed by CFH and King County. This site is far too close to the college, the daycare at the college, to the park and ride, to residences, parks and schools. Location can make a case manager's job easy or it can make it impossible. The Eastgate site is so challenging, even the professionally run facilities would not have been able to do it. There's a very good reason low barrier shelters are located in light industrial areas. It makes case management much easier by greatly reducing risk.

When it becomes necessary to resort to the freedom of information act, you know you are dealing with a serious lack of transparency. My first knowledge of CFH came after I was stalked by a homeless man near the woods of Robinswood Park. He kept referring to his church. I Googled Saint Andrews and found out about CFH and their rotating shelters. This man and the others sleeping in the woods were spillovers from this program. Subsequently I found out about the proposed permanent shelter from Nextdoor.

I was confused about how CFH defines low barrier. I still am confused. It seems the perimeters keep changing. Last week they said that they would screen for sex offenders. How are they going to do this without checking ID's? Self report is very unreliable. Once a man is identified as a sex offender, then what? What is the treatment plan for this? Also Mr. Chelminiak said that the shelter will be "easy to get in, but hard to stay in." So, if a homeless man is unlikely to succeed in the CFH program then he is rejected and returned to the community. These men often stay in the

surrounding area. Making it all the more imperative that this shelter be placed as far from vulnerable populations as possible.

There have been many numbers presented as statistics, such as "80% success rate", but without documentation these numbers are meaningless. Like they always taught us in school, you have to show your work. Scrupulous documentation and oversight is essential to assure that the needs of clients are being met while simultaneously protecting the vulnerable neighboring community. We have been given no indication of how or even if CFH documents their services. Information regarding this crucial aspect of the shelter project has been lacking and requires disclosure and discussion. There has been a focus on what success looks like, but even more important is how failure is handled. Failure is how a treatment team learns and improves. Success is simply doing your job.

It is now time for us all to work together to find a location which is suitable for this facility and that will create an environment for both successful case management and client outcome.

Additionally, it disturbs me that CFH persists in using homeless men to further the CFH agenda by having them speak at council meetings. This is unethical. No mental health professional would do this.

4/11/2017

Please forward this email to the city council.

I support the positioning of a permanent men's shelter near the East Gate P&R.

I understand there has been significant opposition to this siting. However, there will significant opposition to any location in Bellevue. I have reviewed the staff report and found no unaddressed issues.

The Council has an obligation to all of Bellevue, including the homeless, to proactively address the problem of homelessness as soon as possible. Seattle did not act quickly and responsively enough. This led to the seemingly intractable problem they face. Considering that no significantly better site has been found, I urge you to vote for the proposed site.

Dean Dubofsky

4/11/2017

I am disappointed in the City of Bellevue's recommendation for a *'low barrier shelter for men'* in Eastgate. It seems very clear to me that several council members have taken on a very unilateral attitude in pushing through a 'partially baked' proposal that benefits a few groups, but clearly dumps this shelter onto our 'Eastgate front porches' with little regard given to neighborhood quality of life.

There are ongoing issues that have not been discussed in an open forum thoroughly,

1. **Alternate facility locations.** What was the selection process for proposed sites? Who made the selection of Eastgate? What siting criteria was made available to the public. Why the secrecy?
2. **Ongoing yearly direct costs** to operate the facility effectively based on empirical data from other similar entities. Who covers the shortfall if and when that occurs? What about indirect costs, i.e., police, etc.
3. **In the mitigated measures, a proposed Adhoc advisory committee** was suggested. The committee would include neighborhood representatives as members. It is not clear what their level of input and power to make changes that meet their concerns if and when they arise.

4. **Transparent discussions** with the public especially with respect to issues that directly impact neighborhoods.
5. **Using 'easy transit access'** as one of the main reasons for placing this facility at Eastgate, seems shortsighted.
6. **As noted earlier in another email to you**, the green buffers between the proposed facility and adjacent neighbors and college is overlaid with a series of paths and sidewalks. Although these buffers are dense vegetative masses of green, much of these buffers accommodate paths allowing free movement thru and into and onto the other side. No fencing. The proposed site is easily within a five minute walk to many of our front doors.

Please put some thought into my comments and concerns, I am sure many of my neighbors would share those concerns as well.

I am not adverse to a men's shelter (not low barrier) that is appropriately placed at a site with the controls in place to go along with its future funding. The Eastgate Site does not meet those challenges. This does not benefit anyone in the long run to 'hurry' this site through the review process, certainly not the credibility of the city staff and council.

I would recommend a nonpartisan oversight committee composed of a variety of different interests in the community (neighborhood reps, police, advocacy groups, city staff, realtors, etc.,) to tackle the following issues: Potential sites, funding (annual direct and indirect), size of facility, comparative numbers on success rates from other entities and municipalities, just to name a few. How this committee is structured and target dates for achieving the goals could be set and adhered to. In order for this to be a success, it would require total transparency on methods and decision making.

This facility that some of you are proposing has the potential to have some very far reaching negative impacts to the neighborhood and region of the city. It should not be an experiment that some reluctant '*East Bellevue Neighborhood*' will have to deal with.

Marty Zollner

4/12/2017

First, thank you for spending your valuable time to read this. I appreciate your dedication very much.

I have read up on the information about the shelter planned for Eastgate, and this location is a grave concern for me. The men's shelter has been moved from Bel Red where it was first requested to be, it was moved to St Peters where it caused many problems (robberies, men hang around school bus stops, intimidating kids and more). St Peters does not want it ever again.

It was moved to the old auto row and now it is to be moved... still again and this time as a permanent shelter... to Eastgate. This is disturbing why a final move into a residential community?

I see here we have planned a low barrier shelter for 100+ single men concentrated in one spot and surrounded by family residences, a college, dorms, schools, parks, playgrounds, and businesses. The churches won't take these men but the surrounding community is supposed to?

With all the projected services the shelter will provide 3 hot meals a day etc.; it becomes a magnet for men from anywhere; Seattle, King County, other states? What's not to like when word gets around and it will. This creates an open invitation for opportunistic homeless to arrive...the overflow will settle in our adjacent woods.

I don't want to invite a Seattle like jungle. I am not naïve to think it won't happen if Eastgate is chosen. The woods are too close to the shelter, college, and homes, some homes as close as 850 feet. There is a short bridge going from Eastgate across I-90 where there are even more woods, homes and businesses. Great area for drug pushers (besides the college and schools).

Clearing brush and adding more lighting does not keep desperate men with serious problems from camping. It is extremely hard and very costly to monitor wooded areas. These men will bring with them their drug culture and their unsolved problems. It's not even fair for homeless sexual offenders to be in a community with so many targets. Our youth and our children deserve to be spared from having a large group of men with histories of felonies, addiction, mental instability, and sexual offences invited to live in their Eastgate community. Even Bellingham is locating their low barrier away from homes schools, parks, and businesses. They are re-locating 5 businesses from their shelter location so the businesses can continue to thrive. The elephant in the room needs to be acknowledged and addressed. This shelter is not compatible with this location and the housing and businesses that are to be added to that area. Low income housing and a shelter of over 100 men is just not compatible. Try to raise children in low income housing on sparse salaries let alone as a single parent, in the midst of a men's shelter. It so not right. Please do the right thing when you decide, please do not put the Low barrier men's shelter in Eastgate, there are other locations that qualify and have not even been looked at. Even CFH has said there are a couple other locations besides Eastgate that would work.

Joan Sinclair

4/12/2017

My name is Randolph S. Dearth and I reside at 1883 145th Place SE Bellevue, 98007. I have been a Bellevue resident for just short of 16 years. This is my third input to the Council on the Eastgate location for the homeless shelter. I am supportive of Bellevue developing a shelter for homeless men and of the general outlines of such a shelter outlined in the Due Diligence Report. I am opposed to the Eastgate site for the shelter:

- * Because of it's physical closeness to Bellevue College, the Park & Ride and single family neighborhoods
- * Because of the lack of a rigorous and transparent process to identify and down select potential sites for consideration and
- * Because the City has yet to develop an intellectually sound and rigorous due diligence process in support of making a sound financial, community safety and compassion-based decision on this homeless shelter issue.

Unfortunately I have not attended any of the public/community forums where this subject was discussed either because I was not aware they were on-going or because I had a schedule conflict. However, I did arrange an on-site visit to the Lincoln Center site and a discussion with a CFH staff member last night. Quite honestly I was impressed with the effort that I observed from the CFH staff and walked away far more educated on the homeless challenge, the funding sources involved and partnerships that comprise the on-going efforts to quickly transition people into homes. I also reviewed CFH's 2015 Annual Report, which after the on-site visit, proved to be quite informative on many of the critical issues going forward. I now realize:

- * King County's essential role in funding shelter operation and it's required support/counseling systems, but not property donation for shelter location or controlling authority in Bellevue's shelter
- * The broad based support this shelter has throughout the community
- * The number of sex offenders who are actively using the shelter is quite low - a handful is how it was described to me. This provides context to the hot button sex offender topic; according to Bellevue Police there are 9 homeless of 81 offenders living in the city (specific numbers who receive shelter support are unknown to me).
- * The shelter's ability to allow/deny access serves as an incentive for sex offenders and drug users to comply with legal requirements as well as shelter requirements for behavior in an area surrounding the shelter. I noted no excess trash or drug paraphernalia in the area.

I continue to be supportive of a long-term shelter within the city. I do not support moving forward with any commitment on the Eastgate location until the City completes adequate due diligence on the issues involved over the long-run. Specifically there needs to be an understanding of:

* The cost of shelter support over time. The City doesn't need to shoulder all of the cost, but enough to maintain control of it's operations.

* Who the partners will be in running the shelter.

* A prioritized view of the key factors in locating the shelter and an evaluation of all potential sites against these key factors. The sites under consideration should contain both publicly owned and purchased property. In my personal view, the NE corner of the Bellevue City Hall site should be under consideration as it contains all of the advantages identified in selecting the Eastgate site and none of the disadvantages which were not visibly considered in focusing on Eastgate (nearness to schools and to single family residences (downtown residences are effectively secure gated communities) and the negative impact on property values). I know there are other sites that would meet some basic requirements that can be identified, these requirements must serve as the starting point in the site location consideration and evaluation process.

Randolph S. Dearth

4/13/2017

There is every reason to consider this site (OMSF). Chelminiak is in grave error, misguided and at legal risk for his ill-commentary at the Council meeting 4/10/17.

Linda Nohavec

4/13/2017

I have been involved with Congregations for the Homeless & Imagine Housing for many years and support their efforts to provide shelter for homeless men. No location will be ideal but this site has so many excellent features and I hope the City Council will move forward on approving this site.

Jenny Pascal

4/13/2017

I think we have talked about it enough... Its time to get started building it NOW!!! The sooner the better... It is so needed. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to make a comment...

Dee Cappelletti

4/13/2017

Unfortunately, a medical issue will prevent me from attending the April 17 Council meeting and show my support for developing the shelter at Eastgate. While I have submitted comments in the past, given the importance of this meeting, allow me to summarize my opinions on the issue.

- Homelessness is a serious, complex and regional problem, largely "home-grown" as much as anything is in rapidly developing area such as ours.
- All local governments have a responsibility to contribute to finding solutions.
- Punitive and moralizing approaches such as treating homelessness largely as a criminal justice problem are wasteful, self-defeating and inhumane.
- Bellevue has a history of working collaboratively with other governments and the non-profit sector to develop effective strategies to combat homelessness and provide a range of affiliated supportive services, and transitional and permanent housing.
- The City needs to find a permanent shelter location for year-round service.
- City staff have done a superb job in examining the issue and selecting the best site for a men's shelter.

- The proposed site has many positive characteristics: public land; co-location with public health; room to develop social services and more permanent housing ; access to public transit; far enough away from residential neighborhoods yet closer to retail and other commonplace private amenities.
- The City's plan calls for partnerships with respected non-profit agencies; and, has thoroughly involved BPD and other City agencies.
- The City has done extensive public engagement and is committed to continuing working with Eastgate residents, businesses and Bellevue College to integrate the future shelter and supported housing community into the larger community.
- There is no evidence whatsoever that the existing shelter system in Bellevue has created any noticeable social problems; nor have shelters developed using the model proposed led to serious and dysfunctional impacts on surrounding neighborhoods.
- The best way to avoid the encampments seen in Seattle and Tacoma that so disturb many people because of their health and safety problems is to take the approach of developing a comprehensive, multi-agency strategy that allows for easy access to shelter and services while adhering to clearly defined behavioral criteria (low-barrier shelter).
- The siting of shelters, affordable housing and social services typically generate vocal opposition much of which is never satisfied short of abandoning the idea entirely.

Tony Mazzella

4/13/2017

I'm writing to express support for the planned men's homeless shelter near the Eastgate Park and Ride.

I live in the Collingwood neighborhood in south Bellevue, work at the Bellevue School District, and attend East Shore Unitarian Church on Woodridge hill, so I am in that area frequently. I feel that providing services for people experiencing homelessness in Bellevue will benefit our community, and the planned location is particularly well suited for the purpose.

Please keep me informed of actions and community meetings around this issue.

Jennifer Hall

4/13/2017

Who would pay for the men's shelter? Bellevue taxpayers?

How about the rich people who live in Medina, Clyde Hill, Sammamish, and Mercer Island? Do they avoid paying? If so, they not only avoid paying but also don't have to put up with a shelter in their community. This wouldn't be fair.

Don Smith

4/13/2017

I am a resident of Lake Hills and am writing in support of the permanent men's shelter at Eastgate.

As a school nurse, one of the ways I've seen the plight of homelessness is through the eyes of my homeless students. Any long-term support we can give these men and their families will impact the children in the long-run. Many of the families are separated due to multiple factors including regulations regarding men, women and children staying together at the same shelters. I understand the precautions, but this makes an already stressful situation that much more stressful. The shelter would be permanent, but with the assistance and resources, it sounds like the goal is for the shelter to be a temporary home for its residents.

We will always have the homeless and those in need of a hand - a hand up and not just a hand out. With the college close by, health care and transportation this seems to be an excellent site. Questions regarding safety need to be addressed, but I would hate for fear to be the major factor that kills this plan. Our country and city has always been challenged by the perceived threat of the "other." We, time and again, have risen to the occasion and through education, awareness and planning have found a way to welcome the newcomer regardless of status. I am hopeful that we can find a way to do this again.

Karen Smith Fraser

4/13/2017

I live in Bellevue and I vehemently oppose the "low barrier" men's homeless shelter that's being proposed in Eastgate. I understand that homeless men need help, but this is not the right way to provide it.

The rape and murder of a pregnant Bellevue College mother of four (Cassandra Lynn Oliphant) just a few years ago by a troubled homeless man in Bellevue sets a horrible precedent for what could happen yet again. Not to mention the rape and sex trafficking of young girls by troubled, homeless men that is pervasive in the homeless encampments in Seattle should be prevented, not encouraged throughout our neighborhoods.

I have a wife and a young daughter living very close to this proposed location, whose safety should be just as high of a priority as enabling addicts and sex offenders in our neighborhood.

If another incident like Cassandra's were to happen again in Bellevue, it will be your responsibility for enabling the spread of homeless and addicts in our region.

I'll see you on 4/17 to discuss this further and to vocalize my opposition to this horrible idea.

- Jeremy

4/13/2017

Received notice of the April 17 Council meeting, indicating "*The City Council could take action to move forward with siting the proposed Eastside men's shelter and supportive housing project at the Eastgate site.*"

Having followed Council deliberations on this project since last August, and having observed the extent and depth of opposition expressed by those directly affected in the surrounding Eastgate neighborhoods, I am amazed that the Council might ignore the public it is intended to serve and protect.

At this point, two dominant facts should seem apparent:

- 1 - The Eastgate site is inappropriate
- 2 - Alternate sites are available and should be re-studied

For your and Council consideration, I am attaching my summary version of key points regarding the proposed project. John Parazyński (additional comments below)

**Key Points in the Bellevue Men's Shelter Debate
As of April 13, 2017**

- The Eastgate site would directly impact, in a negative way, the lives and activities of a huge neighboring population: residents, school children, college students, college faculty and staff, local businesses, employees, office workers, customers, clients, hotel guests, commuters.
- The facility will be a magnet for homeless from the entire region; specifically the homeless from Seattle encampments who will be only two bus stops from Eastgate.
- Day visitors to the Bellevue shelter may elect to stay overnight in the surrounding area or facilities. And where will men stay overnight if all shelter beds are taken?
- Low-barrier entry criteria will assure that drug dealers will find customers in the shelter.
- Site selection criteria largely ignored surrounding neighborhood issues and concerns. Criteria compared favorable aspects of candidate sites, to the exclusion of negative factors. Selection criteria weighting needs to be re-thought; could consider a distinction between “musts” and “wants,” with “musts” demanding a go/no-go determination, while “wants” would follow the conventional system of relative rating and weighting.
- The mayor and the deputy mayor seem totally locked in on the Eastgate site and are disrespectful of opposing opinions and options. Luckily, several other Council members continue to have an open mind and have voiced rational and alternative approaches to project site selection.
- Without question if the Eastgate site is selected, both residential and commercial property values in the surrounding area will be depressed, and further commercial development of the Eastgate/I-90 corridor will suffer.
- Until capital and operations funding levels are better quantified, and until the roles of the potential public, private and non-profit players better understand and commit to the project, the Bellevue Council would be remiss in proceeding with Eastgate (or any other site) for the men’s shelter.
- Apparently, according to comments at recent City Council sessions, other of the potential Bellevue shelter sites studied earlier are still viable candidates, including the Spring District site; the Lincoln Center site; the transit station site; the firehouse site (lowest cost). And are other sites available? **The Council should now direct a reassessment of all possible sites before a final decision is taken.**

4/14/2017

I have thought long and hard about the proposed location for the no barrier (let’s be honest – low barrier is not the correct term for a shelter that will accept sex offenders, substance abusers and the mentally ill.)

I am gravely worried for the safety of the community and feel that the proposed location is not appropriate for the location of such a shelter – according to documents released, even the Bellevue police department expects that crime

will increase. I am worried for others in the community – for example a neighbor who works in Seattle, takes an early morning commuter bus at the Eastgate park and ride and often times does not arrive home until after dark. My understanding is that there is no plan for security, and the Design of the Eastgate park and ride offers dark, concealing corners – easy opportunity for crime.

I am worried for the students who attend the wooded Bellevue College Campus – again, dark corners – and fear a repeat of that tragic murder of C Oliphant, who was murdered simply walking across a campus trail by a homeless mentally ill man. I've heard people say that that would not happen again, but can anyone guarantee it? Of course not, especially not with residents of a no barrier shelter.

I'm concerned that the resources /funding/experience is simply not adequate for provide the type of care needed to handle the complex mental health issues .

I am worried for my neighbors and for myself – as an increase in crime, litter, drug paraphilia seems inevitable.

I am worried for the vulnerable Elementary, Jr. high and High school population – who are all within the area of this suggested site.

I am worried for the local merchants, panhandling has already forced a closure of the local hair salon, as the older female demographic felt threatened/harassed by the resident homeless population and simply started going else.

I urge to vote against this location – so many citizens are being put at risk, surely there are better locations in Bellevue for this Shelter.

Alison Mitchell

4/14/2017

I live in Bellevue and I vehemently oppose the “low bearing” men’s homeless shelter that’s being proposed in Eastgate. I understand that the homeless need help, but this is not the right way to provide it.

The rape and murder of a pregnant Bellevue College mother of four (Cassandra Lynn Oliphant) just a few years ago by a troubled homeless man in Bellevue sets a horrible precedent for what could happen yet again. Not to mention the rape and sex trafficking of young girls by troubled, homeless men that is pervasive in the homeless encampments in Seattle should be prevented, not encouraged throughout our neighborhoods.

I have a wife and a young daughter living very close to this proposed location, whose safety should be just as high of a priority as enabling addicts and sex offenders in our neighborhood.

If another incident like Cassandra’s were to happen again in Bellevue, it will be your responsibility for enabling the spread of homeless and addicts in our region.

I’ll see you on 4/17 to discuss this further and to vocalize my opposition to this horrible idea.

Jeremy Collins

4/14/2017

I am strongly opposed to building and running this low barrier men's shelter at the proposed Eastgate location. There are many reasons why but the main reason is this seems to just be a big experiment and gamble that everything will work out fine.

There seems to be no basis on facts that this will be a "success" based on other programs out there.

Building this near residential neighborhoods, near a college with young women taking the bus to and from school and near our parks just seems to invite trouble.

You have one chance to get this right. The gamble when this predictably does not work out and has a major negative impact in this area is going to be your legacy in our city.

Please don't give into pressure from King County and publications like the Seattle Times and their opinion.

Please vote for a more appropriate location away from homes, schools and parks.

Please be aware that if this site does get approved by the council, you are going to be in for a further fight. Come election time if your seat is up for re-election, there will be a very large faction of passionate Bellevue residents working to make sure it is your last time on the council.

Greg Clark

4/14/2017

I am writing in support of the men's shelter at the Eastgate location. Homelessness is and has been present on the eastside for many years. As a Bellevue resident of 28 years, living a short distance to the west of the proposed site, I have observed homeless individuals living outside in our community for many years. It is time the scarcity of shelters, services and affordable housing on the eastside is addressed. The partnerships of private and public agencies, the proximity to public transportation and health services provide positive reasons for moving forward with the site. The fear that the shelter will "attract" more homeless individuals is not grounded. More often than not, homeless individuals remain in communities they have ties to, either because they grew up there or want to remain close to their family/friends. This project supports our community by providing stable housing and helping the men served through the shelter to access the services they require to improve their well-being.

Eileen Rasnack

4/14/2017

As a homeless man, I want to encourage the city council during the debate about the Eastside shelter and supportive housing. People become homeless because of a variety of reasons.

Many of my personal issues can be traced back to my childhood. I suffer from PTSD, resulting from domestic violence and sexual abuse as a child. Sure, many behaviors among the homeless are undesirable. But these aren't going away by rejecting the shelter plan. These problems will continue to plague society whether or not there are any homeless in Bellevue, whether or not the shelter exists.

I don't drink alcohol. I don't do drugs. But getting help for my mental health, PTSD and perhaps borderline personality disorder, is not an easy task. And not recognizing the need for help and asking for it is ingrained in American culture, particularly among men.

I am asking you to please help your fellow Americans who are struggling, whatever the reasons.

Aaron Hill

4/14/2017

My husband and I would like to formally support the proposed location for the permanent men's shelter. Both of us grew up in Bellevue (Somerset and Newport Hills) and have spent the better part of adult lives living in Bellevue. We own two homes in Bellevue, one in the Eastgate area (4127 154th AVE SE) and one further south (6624 117th AVE SE). The thing we love about Bellevue is that it has always been a safe and clean place to live. Taking care of our homeless folks by providing a safe place for them to get help is the way to keep it that way. I work in Seattle at Boeing and drive by a couple of the encampments every morning. If we don't address this issue on the eastside I firmly believe we will end up in the same situation in the future.

I have personally been involved with the rotating shelter since the inception. For the past ten years or so I have coordinated their stay at the church I attend in downtown Bellevue. In the beginning there were many fears and complaints by our neighbors and space users. None of them came to fruition. In fact, those folks who complained the most have become some of our best supporters. I realize that the permanent location will house a low barrier shelter but isn't it better to have folks in a location where they will be provided services instead of wandering the neighborhoods or living in cars parked on dark streets? Folks that like to think we do not have homeless folks in Bellevue need to open their eyes.

Being involved with the shelter has changed my perception as well as my husbands of homelessness. Many of the stories I hear could happen to any of us and we are just lucky that it hasn't. I sincerely hope the council does the right thing and moves forward with this shelter.

Sarah and Michael Peterson

4/14/2017

Please please no shelter in the Eastgate area.

Suzanne Olsen

4/14/2017

I am so proud that my city is positioned to make great progress in impacting homelessness on the east side. There is no perfect location but I believe that the city staff has done a complete and professional job researching the very best option. Please don't be dissuaded by the NIMBs and fear mongers. Leadership can be hard.... but we are positioned to set a high bar for the eastside, region and nation by creating this shelter. CFH and Imagine housing will do a great job----

Please MAKE IT HAPPEN! Thanks,

Claudia R. Browsers and David Holzboog

4/14/2017

Please continue the good work and planning and build the men's shelter and housing in Eastgate. I know there are people who don't want it. They don't really understand the impact and need of such housing. I work across the street from Andrew's Glen. (since it opened) We have never had any issues whatsoever (actually...you'd never know it was there and we are thrilled to have good housing on the bus line near where I work). We are at such a huge deficit for shelters and for affordable housing. Please continue to plan and build such resources.

Nancy Huenefeld Gese

4/14/2017

I am a Bellevue resident and I support the proposed shelter/affordable housing in Eastgate. It is a perfect location near buses and the public health building. There are homeless in our area now and providing housing will help these people to live a decent life and work toward getting jobs, services and mental health counselling. I know there is much opposition to the shelter, but we cannot let our decisions be based on fear. Perhaps members of the surrounding community can be brought into the process to be a part of a board that oversees this project. I strongly believe that this shelter will make a difference in our community by providing safe and affordable homes for marginalized individuals on the Eastside.

Wendy Krauss

When I was first putting this email together, I started out by dictating my thoughts. I don't think that it is a coincidence that part of my subject line came out as "No barrier".

For over two years our Bellevue city council members, minus Robertson and Wallace, have operated in the shadows when it comes to ramming this low barrier shelter down our throats. How many times can we point out that having a

shelter that houses up to 100 homeless men who will not be held to ANY standards (until AFTER they break a law) will be a dangerous neighbor for Bellevue College students, the park-and-ride users, and the surrounding (Note I used the word "SURROUNDING") neighborhoods filled with families.

4/14/2017

Even though Wallace and Robertson will be the only two councilmembers I will be voting for in the future, by then it will be too late. Mayor Stokes, please show some LEADERSHIP and concern for your constituents.

Sharon Chabal

4/14/2017

I have lived in Bellevue for the past 21 years, and grew up on the Eastside. I am writing to urge you to please support the Eastgate Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing. Having a safe, clean place to sleep at night is the foundation for success in life. How can a person succeed in school or on the job while sleeping outside in a tent? Being housed inside with access to services, including hygiene facilities, food, mental health counseling, job-finding assistance, resource referrals to rehab, etc, is better for people experiencing homelessness and for the community. Let's shelter and house our community members in need who have become homeless and get them off the streets. Because they are here already. They live under trees, in the bushes, under bridges. They are mostly **not** coming from Seattle, but they are here in our neighborhoods.

It is a Bellevue problem, a regional problem, not just a Seattle problem. Let's take responsibility and be part of the solution. It is amazing what goals people set for themselves and what they can accomplish when they are not worrying about having a roof over their head.

Lucille Hester Winn

4/14/2017

As concerned long-time Bellevue residents and taxpayers for the past 21 years, we are gravely concerned at the proposal to locate a permanent homeless shelter at Eastgate.

Though we support building a permanent shelter to help the homeless who are based in Bellevue (but not those coming from outside Bellevue), we are **opposed** to the Eastgate location as it is **NOT** the right location!

Two of the goals for the shelter location clearly stated by the City Council are:

"Safe shelter—help clients survive and is safe for surrounding area

Good neighbor to immediate neighborhood and broader community"

and One of the factors in selecting a suitable site is:

"No existing residential adjacent, and outside single family neighborhoods"

However, the City Council acknowledged that the Public Health site is only 800 feet from single family homes and townhomes, and further, it is near the Bellevue College that is attended by thousands of teens and young women; and it is near the Eastgate Park and Ride used by school kids, daily commuters to Bellevue College as well as the community;

and it is adjacent to the public transit carpark that is filled with idle cars parked there all day. In addition, there are residents of two hotels Hyatt House and Silver Cloud, a bank and many businesses nearby.

Clearly the public health site does **NOT** meet the criteria stated by the City Council.

At the recent April 3 meeting, several Council members shared the concerns of the Bellevue residents and they raised critical questions on the costs, risks, uncertainty, measurements, safety and security, and the unknown future cost of the operations and human services of the proposed Eastgate shelter. As yet, these questions have not been discussed and addressed. So how can a quick decision to move forward with the Eastgate shelter be made on 4/17 when the above questions on future costs and risks have not been resolved? How can the City of Bellevue cope with the future cost? Are we Bellevue taxpayers going to be burdened to foot the bill? Then do we Bellevue taxpayers get to have our say on where this shelter should be located at this critical juncture?

Moving forward with making a Council decision on the Eastgate site on 4/17 is presumptive. So many critical issues are still not addressed and so much more needs to be done to evaluate other locations and to vet the operation plan and costs. The City Council must seriously consider the risks, costs, safety factors and assume full responsibility for this all-important decision that will impact the future of our Eastgate community and the greater Bellevue.

Over 2,600 Bellevue citizens have signed a petition against the Eastgate location. We sincerely ask that you take heed of our community concerns, say NO to the Eastgate location and to opt for evaluating other viable locations that are removed from residential communities.

Sui Yan-Tan and Kin Yan

4/14/2017

Thank you for all the time you have devoted to reviewing the Eastgate shelter proposal. I urge you to reject placing a low-barrier men's shelter in Eastgate, as well as the proposal to eliminate the public from land use appeals (Council Study Session 4/10/17 Item #17-192). The Due Diligence report on the planned shelter (presented 4/3) has left me with many unanswered questions; clearly, a permanent change to a neighborhood requires public scrutiny and careful study. If the shelter proposal is indeed "take it or leave it," you must vote to leave it. Remember, *no one is saying that Bellevue should not have a homeless shelter*--opponents are only pointing out that *Eastgate is not the right location* for a low-barrier men's shelter, as well as the alarming lack of transparency by City staff throughout the process. I have summarized my concerns below as I know you are all busy; each item is described in more detail at the end of the message if you need more information.

1. The site selection was performed without public input and in secret, resulting in a faulty conclusion.
2. The public has been misled about the nature of the shelter.
3. The City has not provided evidence of secondary impacts about similar shelters in a similar location.
4. The City will not maintain control of the shelter once the permit is issued, so residents will be forced to deal with unaccountable non-profits when problems arise.
5. Funding is incomplete and vague.
6. Mitigation strategies are vague, expensive and only an afterthought to the proposal, not a required condition of approval.
7. No specific measurements of success are provided and continuation is not tied to success.
8. City staff continues to try to exclude the public from the process.

Again, I urge you to reject this proposal which has not changed since it was first revealed to the public on August 1st and I urge you to reject any proposal to reduce transparency and discourage public participation, such as the land use appeal

change staff recommended at the Council Study Session 4/10/17 (Item #17-192).

Thank you. (Detailed comments follow.)

Sincerely,
Melissa Harp
4945 145th Ave SE

Detailed Comments:

1. Site selection: This proposal was developed behind closed doors during the course of more than a year, deliberately kept from the Eastgate Citizen Advisory Committee and suddenly released fully formed on August 1, 2016, mere days after the CAC made its recommendations to the council without any mention or knowledge of the homeless shelter plan City staff was developing secretly. During the short time the plan has been public, Bellevue residents have shown themselves to be thoughtful and caring on the subject of homelessness; clearly they should have been included in the process. Staff made two mistakes during the Eastgate selection process: the proximity of residential housing and the permitted land use. For a \$25 million permanent facility, all possible sites should have been considered, not severely limited by the constraint that it be City or County owned. With public input, a better site would have been identified early in the process.

2. Misleading information about the shelter: The City does not describe this shelter as "low-barrier" although this omission was pointed out at the very first public meeting on 9/29 and City staff acknowledged a need for better communication with the public. In the DDR (p. 3-9), the City lists 18 items under "Media and Postings" as evidence of community outreach. However, only two of those even mention the words "low barrier" and neither reference was written by City staff. In fact, the most recent "It's Your City" article (2/15) fails to mention that the shelter is low-barrier. Given that the biggest concern expressed by neighbors is the low-barrier aspect, *this is a significant omission*. Clearly, the City still believes this information is not something the public needs to know. Even Councilmember Chelminiak equated a low-barrier men's shelter with Mariner's games, Starbucks and churches (Council study session 4/3/17). The first two require a purchase for entry and when the invited group is limited to homeless men, churches require IDs, screening, and the accountability of required case management--common-sense safety measures being denied to Eastgate. The city council is not even clear on the meaning of "low-barrier."

3. Missing information about secondary impacts. There is little information about secondary impacts of placing a low-barrier men's shelter near a college and residences in a suburban middle-class neighborhood because *no one does this*. In the DDR (p. 5-8), the City tries to downplay negative impacts by using statistics which lump together all types of housing funded through the low income housing tax credit (LIHTC). This data includes family housing, affordable housing, subsidized apartments, supportive housing--low barrier men's shelters are not separately accounted for, which renders this data essentially useless in predicting the impact on Eastgate. In addition, another analysis of the LIHTC secondary impacts warns against applying the data too broadly as some neighborhoods see increased property values, while others see decided decreases (*Woo, et al, *Urban Studies* 2015). It depends very much on the local area. Councilmember Robinson cited Andrew's Glen and August Wilson Place as evidence the low-barrier men's shelter will have a positive impact on Eastgate (Council study session 4/3/17). While they might be comparable to the supportive housing part of the proposal, neither facility is a low-barrier men's shelter. What is missing is crime and property value impacts from similar neighborhoods when a low-barrier men's shelter is added. In its list of other facilities studied, the City fails to note whether the facility is low-barrier, whether it is men only.

*Woo, et al, *Urban Studies* 2015 paper link:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281368126_Unpacking_the_impacts_of_the_Low-Income_Housing_Tax_Credit_program_on_nearby_property_values

Admitting that data on secondary impacts is sparse, the City enumerates five effects to be measured. They declare that there is no positive or negative "removal" affect because there is only a parking lot on the site currently (p. 5-10). This ignores the TOD plan which includes putting something else entirely on and around the site. Under "Market Effect," the City states that the "the 50-60 units of new multi-family housing could serve to attract additional housing development." (p. 5-1) Supportive housing units may or may not attract additional development, but the larger low-barrier men's shelter co-located on the same site most certainly will not. The City admits that the "Population Mix" effect is the "least-known" impact at this site, but concludes that the impact will be negligible because there are already some low-income and homeless individuals visiting the public health facility and nearby welfare office (p. 5-11). Those facilities serve mostly women and children, a completely different population than a low-barrier men's shelter. A complete study of this effect would include a count of homeless men currently residing in Eastgate, compared to the number expected when the shelter is in operation. This shelter will bring many more homeless men into Eastgate, not low-income women and families like those currently accessing services there. It will most certainly change the demographics of the neighborhood.

4. Bellevue will have no control once the permit is issued. The DDR states that the City's role ends with permit approval (p. 1-4), which leaves neighbors with little recourse when problems occur. Bellevue Police have already said publicly that they can do nothing until a crime is committed. Taxpayer funds will be spent, but Bellevue taxpayers will be forced to deal with non-profits who are not accountable to them directly *as City government should be*. Staffing and security are entirely at the discretion of the non-profits (p. 2-10). The City notes a concern about the shelter becoming a magnet for men living outside Bellevue, but does not provide any mitigation suggestions, leaving that under the purview of King County (p. 3-5). The City collected concerns about impacts to park and ride users, but declares that King County will have to address them. If the City is able to effectively reduce car/RV camping on streets near the shelter with ordinances, what will be done to prevent car/RV campers from moving into the park and ride instead?

5. Funding is incomplete. The building costs are only estimated and complete funding has not been identified. The largest share of the funding is to be federal (p. 2-11), but can that source be counted on given the changes in Washington D.C.'s political climate? Who is on the hook for the shortfall? Bellevue taxpayers? Will cuts be made to the plan and mitigation ideas? Operating costs are even more nebulous (p. 2-11). Currently, CFH does not raise enough funds to keep the winter shelter open year-round (p. 5-3). Why do we expect them to be able to adequately fund this larger, more ambitious project? Where will shelter residents go if the building has to close seasonally? Will they remain unhoused in Eastgate? Will Bellevue taxpayers be asked to contribute more for shelter operations? The rush to implement without full funding seems more "Seattle" than "Bellevue."

6. Mitigation is expensive and not required as part of the permit approval. Which mitigations are required as a condition of operation before the permit will be approved? BPD bike patrols, increased police presence in the area, additional security personnel inside and outside the shelter, staff to monitor and log calls 24/7, security personnel for surrounding business and college, security lighting and emergency beacons, major landscape changes to eliminate "hiding places" in surrounding neighborhoods: these things are costly. Who pays these costs? The non-profits? The neighbors? The taxpayers? Should we expect Sunset Ridge and BC to destroy their landscaping in the name of security? Some of the mitigation strategies are vague in description and implementation. One is that men can be barred from the shelter for aggressive behavior, loitering or panhandling. Where will they go if barred from the shelter? Can anyone really compel them to leave the Eastgate area if they aren't actually under arrest? Another suggested mitigation is a "good neighbor advisory group" to provide community feedback and a mitigation plan (p. 5-2). Who gets the feedback from this advisory group? Who decides if the suggestions are followed? Does the advisory group have any input before the shelter is built?

7. Success is vaguely defined and not required for continued operation. There is a suggestion to provide an annual

report of shelter performance measures. Who sets the goals for performance? Is it just a count of the number of men served as CFH provides now? Or is it the number who make progress toward permanent housing? Or the number who actually move into permanent housing? Or the number who become self-supporting? Who monitors performance? An independent authority or employees and activists who benefit from the shelter being declared a success? Is the continued operation of the shelter contingent upon some measure of success?

8. City staff continues to exclude the public from the process. This proposal has not changed since it was released on August 1st. Public comment has not been used to make changes to the proposal, only changes to what the City tells the public about the proposal. I had hoped the public outcry over the opacity of the site selection process would lead to better communication and transparency in Bellevue City Government. Unfortunately, City staff have doubled-down on "staff knows best" with their latest proposal to eliminate Bellevue citizens from land use permit appeals (Council study session 4/10/17 Item #17-192). This change is far-reaching and will affect all future permit appeals and not just the homeless shelter permit staff wishes to hastily approve for Eastgate. Washington is a "sunshine state" where government agencies are instructed to err on the side of public disclosure. Bellevue should do no less.

Thank you for reading this far! Please remember the intelligent and compassionate Bellevue citizens you represent. If we had not been excluded from the process, there would be a better plan before you now. -MH

4/14/2017

I strongly support the proposal for a permanent men's shelter near Bellevue college and the Eastgate Park & Ride.
Peter Clarke

4/14/2017

I will be attending the Council meeting Monday night, as I did 2 weeks ago, and strongly urge you to move forward **now** on the Eastgate site for Housing/Shelter/Services for homeless men. This proposal is well-researched, well-thought-out and sorely needed. The proposed providers, Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing, have excellent track records. Congregations for the Homeless is supported and assisted by a large number of Eastside congregations. The site makes sense.

Please move the proposal forward now and establish an advisory committee to guide planning for implementation that can reduce fears by building relationships between the community and the organizations that will carry out the project.

Ann Schroeder Osterberg

4/14/2017

Our representatives are going to vote on the Eastgate location of the permanent low barrier men's shelter on Monday. The city staff picked the location for this shelter's location. They chose to pick a location for us & NOT involve our representatives - our council members - during the site selection process!

By keeping specific council members in the dark, the city indirectly kept the people in the dark. This type of "citizen exclusion" and "council exclusion" implies that the POWER is in the hands of few and not the people we elected!

This is completely unacceptable!!

Kim Chin

4/14/2017

As a Bellevue City resident and advocate for the homeless, I am writing this e-mail to strongly voice my support of locating the Permanent Men's Shelter at the Eastgate location. The building plans that I viewed on the Due Diligence Study that include the Day Shelter, Night Shelter and apartments are very conducive to a successful transition from homelessness to housing. Also, being located next to a Public Health Clinic, a park and ride, and Bellevue College will provide further benefit for the men's success.

Although, there are concerns that this location could have potential adverse effects, the fact is that this can exist anywhere. Of course, every effort should be made to ensure the safety of everyone in the area, i.e., increased security, lighting, and surveillance. The fact that Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) will be managing it is positive because of their high success rate in operating the same low-barrier type facility in Bellevue for numerous years. So, realistically, this proposed Eastgate shelter is not a new shelter as one already exists. CFH staff are trained to deal with numerous different people and situations. They also have the ability to identify when people need help and find treatment such as drug/alcohol addiction and mental health issues. Additionally, helping men become employed and self sufficient is paramount to their goals and success.

I have been involved in supporting CFH in various ways for around 10 years. I have helped provide, serve, and partake in meals with men in one of their programs, which I have enjoyed immensely.

More than ever before, the Eastside needs to address the problem of homelessness and take steps to alleviate it. CFH has a proven track record of getting men back on their feet again, and I believe they will be even more successful with this shelter.

In conclusion, I ask that you also support locating the Permanent Men's Shelter at the Eastgate location.
Jackie Rial

4/14/2017

My name is Tao Xi, a resident in Eastgate area. I love this peaceful place and want it to be a peaceful place for ever. I am a mom too. I want to take my kid to the Robinswood Parks to play in the playground safely. I am a wife, have a husband who needs to take a ride in the Eastgate Park&Ride every workday. I don't want to worry about his safety in the PR everyday. The kid needs his dad, everyday!
I have many friends in this area who also in the same situation like me.

I am writing this letter to oppose the proposed Low Barrier Men's Shelter next to the Eastgate PR, which would put the residents in this area in a dangerous position. It's the Bellevue Residents who pay taxes, obey the law, and work hard to make this community better, so it's reasonable we deserve a safe living place. Consider an industry area please.

I am writing this letter to oppose the Land Use Code Amendment, which could take away too many rights from the Bellevue Residents. I do believe the people should have a say at the decisions which could affect people's lives.
Tao Xi

4/14/2017

Dear Mayor Stokes and Bellevue City Council Members,

I am very much in favor of the proposed permanent shelter for men in the Eastgate area because the location seems so perfect: close to public health services, close to transportation, the land is available, and the cost is right. Many additional services will be provided, and permanent housing will also be built. As far as I can tell and read about it, it has been very well thought through. You already know the ins and outs of this, probably backwards and forwards.

That neighbors object to this in their vicinity is really not unexpected. It seems to be the norm for neighbors to object when they hear the word “homeless”, because it conjures up all kinds of fears. Many of you are familiar with Andrew’s Glen, affordable housing built several years ago by Imagine Housing on the campus of my parish, St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church in Factoria. Granted, the people who live there are not low barrier. Many have “graduated” from the rotating shelter run by Congregations for the Homeless. Nevertheless, there were all sorts of objections to its being built, with fear of just who “those people” were. There were concerns about rising crime, of rapes, all sorts of things. None of that has happened in the years since Andrew’s Glen opened, and it is a good neighbor.

A few years later, Congregations for the Homeless opened a transitional home for men in the Cherry Crest neighborhood that is adjacent to my own. This kind of transitional home was for about 5-6 men who had “graduated” from the rotating shelter. Suddenly there were all sorts of fears and outrage expressed by many of the neighbors. Some of them felt that the men should not even be allowed to visit the small neighborhood park that was located nearby. There was a neighborhood meeting. The house manager spoke and allayed many fears, I believe. Mike Huentelman from the city was there, and he also allayed many fears. At the end of the meeting, the doubting neighbors felt better and began to realize that their new neighbors would be good neighbors and shouldn’t be feared. That has been the case. I haven’t heard any discussion since.

Granted, the proposed shelter is low barrier. It is for all men needing shelter. At last there will be something permanent, so that even though March or April comes, there will still be a shelter available.

Such a shelter on the Eastside is much needed. Steve Roberts from Congregations for the Homeless points out that about 80% of winter shelter clients say their last residence was on the Eastside, so this will be a big help for those homeless who are already in our community.

With permanent shelter, one huge problem that the homeless have is solved. Imagine having to spend much of each day wondering and worrying about where you are going to sleep that night. There is little time for anything else, so trying to find employment or move ahead in some way gets shoved aside as the homeless try to address this most critical need of shelter.

For many men, the winter shelter has proved to be a first step towards transitioning out of homelessness. Steve Roberts points out that over the course of a year, about half the men coming into the rotating shelter run by Congregations for the Homeless come from winter shelter clients. Steve also points out new statistics showing that “80% of the winter shelter clients are there for the first time and don’t come back year after year. Also, 67% of winter shelter clients stay a month or less and King County data shows that of those who leave a winter shelter, only 15% come back into the homeless system.” Steve explains that that doesn’t mean that 85% have now found housing, but it does mean that a large group of them have found their way out of homelessness.

Many many years ago I was senior high youth director at St. Margaret’s. We went on mission trips a few times to Palo Alto, CA, where we worked with Urban Ministry with the homeless. The best learning that the kids got came through interacting with the homeless at their day center. They visited and listened and heard their stories, and what our kids took away was that these were people with a huge variety of backgrounds and reasons why they were homeless. Our kids learned not to fear and not to look the other way. I think that the neighbors who are now so opposed to this permanent shelter will learn the same thing.

I urge you to approve this shelter on this site. Congregations for the Homeless has an excellent track record for running the winter shelters (and others), and Imagine Housing also has an excellent track record. The preliminary work has been done for it. Bellevue College has no objections. It is time to move ahead so that this can become reality. No

location is perfect, but this is as close to perfect as you will find. You can examine this with both your hearts and your heads, and I think and hope that you will grant approval.

Nancy Jacobs

4/14/2017

Vote no on this location on Monday.

We, the citizens that live in this part of Bellevue, realize how deceptive the selection process has been for this location. Bottom line: this "LOW BARRIER" shelter has been misrepresented since the get-go. Many people in support of this shelter don't even live in this part of Bellevue and won't be affected. The fair way to do this is to put this issue to vote by the citizens living in this part of Bellevue. This type of shelter does not belong near colleges, schools, parks, residential. There are many other commercial locations that are better suited for the criminal types of people this type of shelter will bring.

Suzy Lindemann

4/14/2017

My name is Kathleen Riley and I work in Pastoral Care at St. Louise Catholic Church in Bellevue. I know about the pressing need for a permanent Men's Shelter in the area and applaud the City of Bellevue for trying to secure a place for this to happen. Although I know no place is ideal, the current idea is about as good as one could get, so I would like to go on record as supporting this location for this shelter. I'm sorry, I will be unable to attend Monday's meeting, but would like you to know my opinion/vote.

Thanks very much for your work on the very difficult problem.

Kathleen Riley

4/14/2017

Placing homeless men near transit point and Bellevue College is very bad idea. This can affect students as well as residents in variety of negative ways.

Security of our kids is in stake. This can cause drug abuse and dealing problems and security problem.

Please don't let this happen.

Binayak

4/14/2017

As the new owners of **Lincoln Executive Center**, Urban Renaissance Group (URG) and Miller Global Properties are looking forward to playing a positive role in the exciting redevelopment of Eastgate. URG has a long history in Eastgate, providing property, construction and leasing management services to over 1M sf of office properties among Sunset North, Eastgate Office Park and Lincoln Executive Center.

URG and Miller Global acquired Lincoln Executive Center in the fall of 2016. Our business plan calls for making a significant capital investment to reposition a 1980s vintage, traditional office park into a dynamic work environment designed to attract tech, creative class, and professional service tenants from throughout the Greater Bellevue and Seattle region.

We are of course aware of the **proposed men's shelter project at Eastgate**. The proposed site is immediately adjacent to our property. Naturally, our ownership group, as well as a number of our major tenants, have questions and concerns about the impact the proposed shelter may have on the nearly 1,000 employees working at Lincoln Executive Center. In addition, we have questions about whether the proposed shelter signals a change of the city's vision for the redevelopment of Eastgate.

On behalf of both URG and Miller Global, I would like to encourage the members of the city council to continue their thoughtful consideration of the interests of the community at large. Finally, please let me know if you have questions relative to our concerns.

Patrick Callahan

4/14/2017

I am opposed to the Eastgate homeless shelter. It's unfair to place this burden on one location. A low barrier shelter with so many men has a high risk of negatively impacting the surrounding neighborhoods which are very close to the site.

Drug abuse and mental issues will likely endanger people and damage property. My 14 yr old daughter has to go through that park and ride to get to and from high school. Often in the dark. What kind of city is this?

We all want to help these men but it should either be near a full service health care facility or in a less populated industrial area. Bellevue police cannot quickly remove transients and I've never actually seen a transit policeman when commuting through this PR daily for 6 months.

This burden should be shared by other areas of the city. The likely problems and risks to Eastgate residents will be on your shoulders and the voters will remember if you force this through. You are putting the well being of these men before your own residents. Are there large corporate interests pushing this toward Eastgate? There are other solutions. Please do not put this disproportionate burden on Eastgate residents.

Steve Rudasics

4/14/2017

Dear Councilmembers:

I am writing because I am concerned about the way the homeless shelter project in Eastgate has been handled. I wrote previously expressing my tentative support for the project and my disappointment about the way the siting and public outreach had been handled.

Since then, I have come to understand that all the facts are not being shared and that citizens are being sidelined, even those who have been selected to represent residents on the Planning Commission.

If true, this is a blatant violation of public trust and a recipe for a lengthy and costly public dispute. I am angry that the council is acting against the wishes and best interests of the very people they were elected to serve.

Furthermore, this questionable activity sets a dangerous precedent for other current and future projects, such as siting of the new fire station and potential redevelopment of the Newport Hills shopping center.

I sincerely hope that the council will take steps to remedy the wrongs that have already been committed and pursue reconciliation with the residents who have been ignored. I hope that I can come to trust you, my councilmembers, once again.

Sincerely,

Barbra Chevalier

Resident, Bellevue, WA

4/14/2017

Dear Members of the Bellevue City Council,

I am writing to express my support for the current plan to place this shelter in Eastgate. The letter in today's (4/14) Bellevue Reporter said it as well as I can.

My only addition is to say I am appalled by the level of ignorance by the opposition of (or the refusal to accept) the facts refuting their claims of increased crime in the vicinity of such facilities elsewhere. I believe it all to be simply a classic case of the NIMBYs and/or FEAR (False Evidence Appearing Real). These homeless folks are already among us, whether those in opposition to this facility like it or not. The simple fact is they (the homeless) will be way better off in this shelter instead of where they are now in tents in the woods or in cars on our streets (if they are so fortunate as to have a car), AND those with homes in the area will be SAFER for it, whether the opponents realize it or not!

Please take action to move forward with this important, and logically placed, project! Thank you!

Sincerely,
William D. (Dave) Osmer
Woodridge

4/15/2017

I support the proposed homeless shelter at the proposed location. Although I understand the fear of the nearby residents, I think that the management of the facility by CFH and Imagine Housing, as well as City services will mitigate most concerns. There is no perfect spot for this. Our church, St. Margaret's in Factoria, hosts 35-40 vetted homeless men each September and with the excellent CFH management one barely knows they are sleeping, eating and showering in the church. We also have a 41 apartment Imagine Housing building adjacent to our church and have had no real issues. In fact, several of the homeless men in the church program have been able to "graduate" into the apartments with CFH and Imagine Housing help and direction.

I feel that we need to take steps to address the homeless and this is another that is necessary.

Robert Pascal

4/15/2017

We do support helping the homeless in many different ways --

However, the location in east gate right next to our trails and parks where our children all and play, and we adamantly oppose building a homeless shelter in this location .

In the best interest of our children and our community , we do not support this location for a homeless shelter as it will be a huge safety concern -- We use those trails and parks and having the homeless (some who use drugs) will increase violence and crime in our own very safe community .

Please do not allow this shelter in our suburban safe Neighborhood.

We beg you --

Kathy Cooper Franklin Littler

4/15/2017

I join the majority of Bellevue citizens who believe that providing services for the homeless is needed, but I also firmly believe that we should be doing it in a way that is good for those needing services, and for the surrounding community. There are just too many unanswered questions about the Eastgate location, and no evidence that concerns could be addressed in a real and meaningful way (let alone would be addressed with appropriate funding and resources). It is simply too early to select any site—due diligence has not yet been done.

I applaud the questions posed by councilmembers Jennifer Robertson, Kevin Wallace and Conrad Lee during the April 3, 2017 City Council Study Session. Mayor Stokes comments, however, were disconcerting. He said that we've been working on this problem a long time, and we can't delay any longer—we have to make a decision now. However, it's not about the amount of time the problem has been worked on—it's about the quality of the work. In this case, the quality of work is in question, and until there's been an objective and thorough analysis of the proposed shelter in the proposed site, **including long-term financials, project goals and partner buy-in**, it's too soon to make a site decision.

The Eastgate site is being pushed through without a financial plan in place. Only a very high-level financial plan is available for the site development, with no long-term operating plans in place (as noted at the April 3, 2017 City Council Study Session). Undoubtedly the City of Bellevue will need to provide funding long-term, but we have no idea what those costs will be, and I strongly believe that some of those long-term costs will be related specifically to the Eastgate site (if chosen), in particular, for security.

Would you build a house without any idea of the costs—both development and maintenance costs—before you start? No. Yet if a decision is made on April 17 to select the Eastgate site, then that is what you are asking us to do. That is unconscionable.

Security is a very real concern with the Eastgate site. A few things to consider (based on information from City of Bellevue records, and compiled into “the compendium” by the ERC):

- The proposed low-barrier shelter is not equivalent to the current CHF shelters being run in churches, as the churches have objected to “low barrier” options.
- In the compendium, there is a memorandum from the Bellevue Police Department dated March 2, 2016. In it, Bellevue Police Captain Carl Kleinknecht pointed out problems with the current winter shelters that make it clear that the current shelters have, indeed, increased crime in the surrounding areas (contrary to what is being said by supporters of the proposal). The increase is more than 200%! We cannot ignore that.
- The memo points out that with current laws, the police have very few tools at their disposal to handle difficulties. Quote from Captain Carl Kleinknecht: "I am very concerned that this problem will likely increase in scope as there are currently inadequate solutions to deal with the number of service-resistant populations."
- Problems seen with past winter shelters in Bellevue cited in the memo: Expulsion resulting in loitering in the nearby area; RVs taking up residence on roads near the shelter; robberies (armed and strong-armed) periodically occurring near the shelter. Quote from Captain Carl Kleinknecht: "I am aware of three of them that occurred in the past two months and at least two of them were perpetrated by shelter residents."
- Even Dwight Jackson from CFH said that he was "concerned with the proposed location because of its lack of a buffer zone between the shelter and surrounding development and college."

Concerns about the proposed shelter type (100 bed low-barrier) in a highly-utilized and populated area are substantiated, and real. Why put the thousands of people who live, commute through or attend college each day at risk?

There has been a consistent lack of transparency with the process. The commission looking at the rezoning and long-term development plans were not asked to consider the impact of a homeless shelter. My neighbors and I have NEVER been contacted by the City and asked for input. Information from earlier meetings, which clearly show the Eastgate site’s inappropriateness, has been whitewashed or simply withheld from the public. It’s unclear whether the administrators of the Park and Ride, Bellevue college and surrounding businesses have been fully briefed and included in the planning. What happens if they refuse to pay for the extra security needed and require the City of Bellevue to pay for that?

There’s no question that there is a need to provide services for the homeless that will help them transition out of homelessness. The only question is what those services consist of, and where they are centered. Transparency in the planning process is needed—we’re not getting that today.

I implore you to complete due diligence and community outreach before making this decision. And while you’re at it, **put a stop to the Land Use Code amendments being proposed.** We’re paying attention, and we will stand up for our rights come the next election.

I’m a nearly 50-year resident of Bellevue, and made a conscious choice to stay here as an adult because I believed it to be a safe place to live, and a well-run city. I hope that I can say that in the future, but I won’t be able to if you vote for the Eastgate site before due diligence is completed, and/or you change the Land Use Code requirements so that the citizens are kept out of the planning process.

You know what's right for the citizens of Bellevue. Stop pandering to the developers and King County, and do what's right for the people you work for.

Heather Van Schoiack

4/15/2017

The site selection process lacked transparency and sufficient consideration of site locations other than Eastgate. Please table any motion to approve the Eastgate site at this time. Involve the community in reviewing other possible sites, such as in the Spring District or in the Lincoln Center Office Park area adjacent to the planned light rail line.

Bruce McClelland

4/15/2017

I support the proposed homeless shelter at the proposed location. Although I understand the fear of the nearby residents, I think that the management of the facility by CFH and Imagine Housing, as well as City services will mitigate most concerns. There is no perfect spot for this. Our church, St. Margaret's in Factoria, hosts 35-40 vetted homeless men each September and with the excellent CFH management one barely knows they are sleeping, eating and showering in the church. We also have a 41 apartment Imagine Housing building adjacent to our church and have had no real issues. In fact, several of the homeless men in the church program have been able to "graduate" into the apartments with CFH and Imagine Housing help and direction.

I feel that we need to take steps to address the homeless population and this is another that is necessary.

Robert Pascal

4/15/2017

I am firmly against this shelter in this area. This is an area with townhomes (with kids), a quick walk to a dance studio, gymnastics studio, karate studio, and worse, a gun range. There are other areas much more suited to this.

It's only a matter of time until something happens here, be it an assault or abduction of a young girl (who are at the above studios, many times without a parent in attendance), or a confrontation with an armed client of the gun range.

I recognize no one wants this "in their backyard", and indeed, it is not even in mine. My kids are all adults, no longer attending the dance studio. But many others are.

This has been proven to lower property values, something we do NOT want here in Bellevue. I've been a resident of this city since 1995, enjoyed raising my 4 kids here in a safe and nurturing environment. I pay property taxes, I vote in elections.

There is no guarantee of safety here. We can't even seem to "evict" the RV's/cars being lived in alongside Factoria mall! The fact that this is a low barrier shelter is even worse.

Many residents have signed a petition against this, which seems to have NO effect at all on the City Council or mayor. The mayor, in fact, seems to feel that those of us in opposition merely "don't know enough." Well, yes, we do. And we don't want it here.

Theresa Morgan

4/15/2017

For many who are following this issue, it looks like another in a long line of examples of government ramming it's preferred choice down the throats of the people who will be most impacted by it. It appears clear that the path chosen for this proposal was the path involving the least amount of participation from the public along with minimal (and skewed) information made available to stake-holders.

Hard working, tax-paying citizens are sick about having their concerns ignored. And now rumors of "proponents" stacking the public meeting on April 17th? The tyrannical socialism many of you are practicing, is not our form of government.

John F Gaston

4/15/2017

To Council

This is a major concern that you are moving forward with this site and with total disregard for the residents of Bellevue and our safety.

This site has not been thought through well and all the ramifications of safety concerns and added crime in the area. There is no feasible thought out plan for this site. This needs to be a no vote for this location. It is not safe and there is no good plan for this shelter to operate safely.

Cynthia Avanzino

4/15/2017

Hello,

I would like to express my concern and that I am extremely against the low barrier mens shelter at the Eastgate location. Please consider the terrible impact this will have on safety of our children in the neighbourhood and at Bellevue College. This is a terrible location for something like this.

Below are some of my and my neighbor's concerns about this.

1. When a CFH client violates a Code of Conduct and is banned from the shelter, is this person banned from all low barrier shelters? Where will this person be sent? Does BPD take the client to an encampment, prison or released in the near by area?
2. How can CFH assure us that without ID requirements at this shelter, that they will NOT be harboring criminals who have arrest warrants or are in violation of sex offender registry.
3. Steve Roberts and David Bowling from CFH say that the homeless men who come to their low barrier shelter, leave and never return to the homeless system again implies that that the homeless men found housing. This is just an "opinion" because there is NO tracking data to support this claim. The CFH still have no success statistics for their low barrier program that matches their high barrier program.
4. St. Peter's Neighborhood cited at 260% increase in crimes from public defecation, thefts, break-ins, panhandling, in their message to CFH and church. Why was this information not disclosed to the public and proponents keep stating that crime does not increase in the area near the shelter? A crime is a crime, whether major or minor, and all crimes affect the quality of life in the area.
5. Does the Council agree with Steve Roberts that heroin should be legal?
6. Is this an shelter for Bellevue residents, King county residents or all residents?
7. What rules and ordinances are being passed to disallow RV campers, encampments and panhandling in the area?

Peter Varnavski

4/15/2017

Dear Sirs,

I would like to express my concern and that I am extremely against the low barrier mens shelter at the Eastgate location. Please consider the terrible impact this will have on safety of our children in the neighbourhood and at Bellevue College. This is a terrible location for something like this.

Below are some of my and my neighbor's concerns about this.

1. When a CFH client violates a Code of Conduct and is banned from the shelter, is this person banned from all low barrier shelters? Where will this person be sent? Does BPD take the client to an encampment, prison or released in the near by area?
2. How can CFH assure us that without ID requirements at this shelter, that they will NOT be harboring criminals who have arrest warrants or are in violation of sex offender registry.
3. Steve Roberts and David Bowling from CFH say that the homeless men who come to their low barrier shelter, leave and never return to the homeless system again implies that that the homeless men found housing. This is just an

"opinion" because there is NO tracking data to support this claim. The CFH still have no success statistics for their low barrier program that matches their high barrier program.

4. St. Peter's Neighborhood cited at 260% increase in crimes from public defecation, thefts, break-ins, panhandling, in their message to CFH and church. Why was this information not disclosed to the public and proponents keep stating that crime does not increase in the area near the shelter? A crime is a crime, whether major or minor, and all crimes affect the quality of life in the area.

5. Does the Council agree with Steve Roberts that heroin should be legal?

6. Is this an shelter for Bellevue residents, King county residents or all residents?

7. What rules and ordinances are being passed to disallow RV campers, encampments and panhandling in the area?

Thank you,

Denise Hage

4/15/2017

This is important. The Eastside needs more available housing, and this seems to be ideal. I am a member of St. Margaret's, Bellevue. We have housed C4H since its inception. It has been a positive experience. Also, the St Andrews housing on our campus has been a positive experience.

Chari Avolio

4/15/2017

City council members,

Please do not vote to allow this low barrier men's shelter in Eastgate.

The safety of the residents should be your primary concern. This is absolutely wrong to allow this in our residential area. This shelter should be in a business zone.

You may think our Eastgate neighborhood is isolated enough but you are very wrong. Families live here, students go to school here, people of every age commute from this area.

If you turn your back on our safety and our property values and choose to appear to be doing the right thing for the homeless by providing this "low barrier" facility you should be ashamed of yourself. We pay high property taxes and we deserve the same safety considerations as every other Bellevue neighborhood.

Be responsible for the residents of southeast Bellevue. Shame on all of you if you vote yes for this shelter in our residential area. Our safety is YOUR responsibility.

JoAnn Lee

4/15/2017

Dear Mayor Stokes, City Council Members,

I am a resident of King County residing outside of Bellevue but have volunteered within Bellevue as part of a faith-based organization to provide meals at the emergency shelters, including at the Lincoln Center. I've had some (even if small) direct experience with homelessness in this area and the capabilities of groups like CFH to provide real and important help.

Bellevue citizens and the City Council are at a crossroads on the issue of a full time homeless shelter for men.

On one hand, Bellevue can remain a city like many in the area and across the country, struggling with the issue of a homeless population but unable to adequately address it, having no plan, no vision, perplexed and perpetually reacting to problems surrounding the issue. Bellevue could remain just another city offering no progress, no long-term solutions, and ultimately failing to address this problem by the actions they fail to take.

On the other hand, Bellevue has an opportunity. Bellevue can be different type of city. Bellevue City Council has an opportunity to own and drive this issue. An opportunity to set the standard, to be proactive, to show other cities in the region and around the entire country an effective and positive way to help the homeless get on their feet – the Bellevue Way. Bellevue can be a city that is not satisfied to just be struggling to deal with this issue but one that takes constructive positive steps to make things better.

This path, to continue pursuit of the Eastside men's shelter, will not in itself solve this issue. But it will result in Bellevue taking action in the right direction, becoming one of the special cities in America that show through action that their citizens care and are willing and able to take control in a way that others will want to emulate to improve their own communities.

Bellevue City Council members will be doing the right thing by authorizing continued development of an Eastside shelter.

Thank you,
Don Neifert,

4/15/2017

Mayor and Council Members,

Thank you for the discussion and good questions regarding the permanent low barrier men's homeless shelter a couple of weeks ago at your council meeting. Since we've got a nice holiday weekend and spring break vacations going on this is the perfect opportunity for staff and supporters to ram through the decision on homeless shelter. The questions posed by council have been given cursory answers at best and the alternate sites have been summarily dismissed by the staff. Will you the council buy off on this? I find the whole thing a bit insulting. Why do you have the meetings? Pose the questions? Why do you bother with any of this "public outreach" The staff has decided for you.

I didn't see anything in the few paragraphs that would put the kibosh on the Lincoln Center site. I suppose the marijuana store is down the street is supposed to sway us, never mind the heroine or meth that they might have in their pockets. Oh and of course the entire Wilburton subarea "re-visioning" will be a total loss if the temp site were to become permanent. Here's a vision: Instead of creating these fictitious public outreach programs where the staff decides what they want, the City Council sets the vision for the city and the staff does their jobs provides meaningful information and responses to the elected council.

I don't quite understand staff's response on the Sound Transit OMFE site. All through the planning process of Light Rail coming to Bellevue we were "collaborating" like we were hand in glove, BFF! Now someone has the audacity to suggest that we put a homeless shelter facility on a small portion of this site, like trying to work with ST is going to be a monumental effort and one that is too burdensome to even really ponder. Really???

I'm not a fan of this type of homeless shelter in Bellevue. I don't think Bellevue needs to be a dumping ground for Seattle and King County. Yes, there are homeless people in Bellevue and we need to help them- I get that, I support that. After watching the last council meeting on this subject I see that some sort of facility such as the one planned is inevitable. I was encouraged by the council discussion and the questions posed by council members. I'm very frustrated by cursory and dismissive nature of the answers posted in the meeting materials. If nothing else, I hope the council will demand more thorough responses to be able to thoughtfully consider the location and possible alternative locations of this shelter.

Joel Glass

4/15/2017

It is increasingly evident that Bellevue city staff have made every effort to exclude the public they serve from any opportunity to participate in a meaningful way in the selection of the site for this men's shelter.

The "single site" option that was used here is clearly intended to avoid any responsibility to maintain a rational and transparent process that would be consistent with a more rigorous and open selection procedure.

This is my second letter to the council in opposition to their attempt to railroad this selection process through without following what would normally be considered "customary procedure". This heavy handed effort on the part of the city has shown a complete disregard for the public who have elected these individuals. The issue is no longer the shelter it is the complete disregard for the public these folks are elected to serve.

I, for one, will not only remember this occasion at election time, I will also, most certainly, participate in the filing of a formal legal suit in order to stop this project and hopefully prevent similar underhanded procedures from being used in the future.

I strongly urge Mayor Stokes, Deputy Mayor Chelminiak and Lynn Robinson to vote NO on this issue.
E Moffet

4/15/2017

As a clergy member serving the downtown community I express my full support for a permanent shelter in the proposed Eastgate location. Thank you for the time and energy you have put into this matter. It is essential to build this for the Eastside community.

Rev. Cristina Airaghi

4/15/2017

I'm writing to request that the Bellevue City Council approve the Eastgate site for affordable housing, a men's shelter, and services for our neighbors experiencing homelessness when it comes before you on Monday evening, April 17.

As a former member of the Human Services Commission and retired United Way staff member, we have worked on ending homelessness for many years. For too many years we have asked that

Bellevue play a major leadership role and by approving the Eastgate site for affordable housing, a men's shelter, and services for our neighbors experiencing homelessness you have the opportunity to take that role.

For years community members, staff, and elected leaders in the City of Bellevue and King County have been talking, planning, and exploring options for responding to the crisis of homelessness and the need for affordable housing. Now with this ideal site, close to many needed services, housing and transit it is time to act!

The time for studying and discussion is past. It's time to act and respond to the crisis of homelessness affecting our neighbors.

If this site isn't deemed suitable on Monday night, the Bellevue City Council will be sending a message that there is no suitable location for services for homeless Eastside residents. We cannot step away from this crisis and do nothing.

I am asking the members of the Bellevue City Council to move from talking, planning, and researching alternatives to make a decision on Monday, April 17, 2017 to approve this site.

Please make a decision on Monday night to approve the Eastgate site for the men's shelter, affordable housing and services. Thank you.

Jan Stout

4/15/2017

First and foremost, thank you for your vision, your compassion, and your courage.

As members of the clergy serving the Bellevue community, we stand with you as you work to alleviate the suffering of our friends, neighbors, and congregants experiencing homelessness.

The Proposed Permanent Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing Project will enable Congregations for the Homeless, a longstanding Bellevue social services provider, to fulfill their mission of helping men make the transition from life on the street to stable, independent living, while making Bellevue a better home for all its residents.

Easter and Passover are celebrated this week in congregations throughout the City of Bellevue.

Rituals and prayers when commemorating these foundational moments in our sacred stories compel us to fully embrace the core ideals of our faith. When asked by a student as to the greatest commandment, Jesus responded with wisdom from Hebrew scripture:

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'.

(Matthew 22:36-49)

A later Jewish sage, Rabbi Akiva, echoes the centrality of this moral imperative as well: To love one's neighbor — to see them, to empathize with them, to care for them — is both the ideal for which we all strive and a call for action this very day.

We believe that City staff have done thoughtful and comprehensive due diligence in selecting the best location for this project and in creating mitigation strategies to ensure neighborhood safety. Congregations for the Homeless has operated temporary shelters for nine years without incident. **We urge you to move forward with the Proposed Permanent Men’s Shelter and Supportive Housing Project at the Eastgate location**, thereby creating a safe, communitybuilding resource where our friends and neighbors — *and we ourselves* — can transcend the bounds of homelessness to attain dignity for all.

Sincerely,

The undersigned Eastside Clergy:

Bishop Greg Rickel

Bishop Kirby Unti

Deacon Sam Basta

Deacons Bill & Gina Haines

Dr. Mark Smutny, Pastor

Father Fabian MacDonald

Father Gary Zender

Pastor Nicolai Buccino

Pastor Gary Gulbranson

Pastor Jon Mau

Pastor Mike Monjay

Pastor Robin Porter

Pastor Dave Thomas

Pastor Joe Yoshihara

Rabbi Jaclyn Cohen

Rabbi Micah Ellenson

Rabbi David B. Fine

Rabbi David Lipper

Rabbi Aaron Meyer

Rabbi Emily Meyer

Rabbi Kate Speizer

Rabbi Daniel Weiner

The Rev. Steve Aeschbacher

The Rev. Cristina Airaghi

The Rev. Steve Baber

The Rev. Becki Barrett

The Rev. Paul Benz & Elise

DeGooyer

The Rev. Lara Bolger

The Rev. Alexander N. Breckinridge

The Rev. Lisa Horst Clark

The Rev. Gary Dalenius

The Rev. Christine Demura

The Rev. Michael Denton

The Rev. Janet B. DeWater

The Rev. Dr. Scott Dudley

The Rev. Travis F. Fletcher

The Rev. Roger A. Harwerth

The Rev. Christina Jillard

The Rev. Richard Leatherberry
The Rev. Paula McCutcheon
The Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha
The Rev. James V. Rehder
The Rev. Veronica W. Smith
The Rev. Danna VanHorn

4/15/2017

we need low-income housing bellevue
Scarlett Slape

4/16/2017

I am writing to inform you of my opposition to the proposed Eastgate location for the Men's low barrier Homeless shelter. I am not opposed to a shelter in Bellevue in the proper location.

I am a long time resident of the Eastgate area and a full time user of the Eastgate park and ride. I commute to downtown Seattle daily and have done so for many years.

I have attended multiple meetings regarding this shelter in order to educate myself before forming my opinion. I entered this process with an open mind and with the acknowledgment that there is a need for a shelter. I have had the opportunity to speak with the CFH representatives and ask many questions and to hear information from the city of Bellevue. I have been greatly disappointed and alarmed by the lack of answers, data and details.

Frankly, I am quite shocked that a project of this magnitude could be even considered given the lack of safety planning and solid funding information and proximity to a residential community, parks and schools. It all seems to be based on wishes, hopes, good intentions and special interest groups agendas. I have not heard anything in the way of concern for the residents and tax payers of the Eastgate community.

I have been told that the low barrier shelters are in place now and have been rotating to various locations and that this project would serve this same community. Several volunteers from the rotating church shelters spoke of how they have never had a problem and have had positive experiences. I have conflicting information – are these rotating church shelters low barrier or medium barrier?

CFH also spoke about the cases of success that they have had of moving men out of homelessness. They cite a 50-60% success rate in their Medium barrier shelters, which cannot be used in comparison to this low barrier shelter. The population of these two communities – low barrier and Medium barrier - are separate and distinct and cannot be compared.

This permanent low barrier shelter will serve the chronically homeless – the mentally ill, addicted and criminal element. A facility of this type will be serving those with the most challenging of needs.

They have no statistics of success for low barrier.

I was interested in the day to day reality of what this facility would entail.

Here are some questions I asked CFH:

1. Plan to keep the surrounding area safe?

I was told that it is not CFH's job to do policing. Their current model of safety is to develop relationships with the residents.

I don't accept that relationship building of a transient population is an acceptable safety plan.

I attended the April 3rd study session and Council meeting hoping to hear concrete project plans regarding safety. What I heard was more alarming.

A council member said hopefully Sound transit will increase their patrols in the park and ride. Is this a legal agreement or a wish? We are asking another entity to add budget and staff responsibility? As a long time daily transit user, I have never seen Transit Security at the park and ride - Not once.

I also heard that Bellevue College is on board and their security would be involved. I have taken many classes at Bellevue College in the past and have stopped doing so due to safety concerns. That campus and parking areas are dark

and wooded. I have seen their security cars drive around the main roads, but that is a very large and spread out campus and I had not seen them drive into the individual parking areas. Is there a legal agreement from the college for them to add budget and staff in order to add security for the shelter? How do the students, parents and faculty feel about their security resources being diverted from the college campus?

Also discussed was the need for the City of Bellevue to add police staff in order to patrol and support this area. This seems like an ongoing substantial budget and staffing requirement.

I am completely against multiple agencies providing security. When multiple parties (Transit, Bellevue College, Bellevue Police) are involved it will be a complicated endeavor and a communication and accountability risk.

My take away from my information gathering is that there is no plan for safety. Site selection based on other entities adding budget and staff is puzzling to me. The hopes that others will be involved in security is naïve and I find this completely unacceptable and negligent and was quite shocked by this information.

2. Where will the residents use their drugs?

I was told that at other shelter sites CFH has placed sharps containers around the area and asked them not to shoot up on the site. This makes me wonder logistically where will they shoot up and use drugs and alcohol? Does it make you wonder too?

Are you as a city prepared to permanently place sharps containers in the Eastgate area? Has any thought been given to where these locations should be? This proposed site is next to transit. I would infer that they will need to use the drugs after getting off the bus and before arriving at the shelter.

I think it is one thing to have rotating shelters with sharps containers in a neighborhood for a finite length of time and quite another to expect one neighborhood community to bear the brunt of this permanently.

3. Funding?

I was told that there is some federal funding. This was a non-answer. I was told that the shelter needs to be low barrier as funding requires this and low barrier does not require ID.

After the April 3rd study session and council meeting I was even more confused and concerned about funding. I heard council members talk about requiring ID's but this is in contradiction to what CFH has said. What are the requirements for funding? ID or no ID?

My take away is that there is no solid funding secured now or for the future. This is a permanent building not a rotating temporary shelter. This is a very large capital project with ongoing expenses. Who is responsible for this? Who will be responsible for this in the future? What is the plan if the federal funding decreases? What are the funding requirements? Can the Council affirm that this will not end up being a City of Bellevue responsibility and a fiscal ask down the road? CFH did not have the answers, do you?

4. What do you do if the need exceeds the bed count on a given day?

I was told that if that happens then our world has really big problems. Given that the routes of the Eastgate park and ride busses go right by the large shelter populations of downtown Seattle, I would expect that this is a valid possibility and should be addressed.

CFH also said that they could bus the overflow to Seattle. That said, I would fully expect Seattle and King county shelters to do the same and bus overflow to Eastgate. Per the April 3rd meeting, the winter shelter houses 50-85 men per night. It is not much of a reach to expect 100 beds to be filled.

5. Who will be working with the residents?

I was told there are case managers and the number of case managers is inadequate now. How will more case managers be acquired for this larger facility with more needs? Will this staff requirement be associated with funding?

6. Is there another facility like this somewhere else that is used as a model?

I was told not that they know of. There are no best practices to use as guidance.

At the April 3rd meeting there was discussion about comparable facilities and best practices to the one proposed at Eastgate. I assume those comparable facilities were also in neighborhoods with woods and parks and houses and a college nearby or were they in already existing high poverty urban areas?

There is much assurance from CFH that they can do this because they are doing it now. That is a half-truth. Yes, they

are currently managing rotating shelters. They are not and have not in the past managed a 100 bed low barrier permanent facility with day facilities and housing. After the April 3rd study session and council meeting I heard that the winter shelter is what we are trying to replace with this permanent shelter.

I think that is not a fair comparison. You are comparing a winter shelter to a permanent shelter with housing and day facilities. They are not the same.

I do not doubt the sincerity and mission of the CFH group and positive interactions of the volunteers. However, the experiences of part time volunteers in a medium barrier shelter is vastly different than what the public and the affected communities have on a day to day ongoing basis.

Months ago the Council said this location is not a done deal and that it is a process to determine if this is the right location. This process of discovery has since uncovered more information and raises issues and alarms which makes this Eastgate location unsuitable. I was taken aback at the April 3rd Council meeting when it was stated by a council member that we have to act now and move forward with this location because too much time has gone by and it will only cost more to delay.

This is in conflict with the process of vetting and I expect the council to honor the process.

Clearly based on the Seattle Times Editorial from April 6th, this permanent facility that will be considered a part of a solution to the regional problem. This facility being proposed will be here for a very long time. It is essential that it is placed in an appropriate location. There can be no rush and there can be no pressure or influence from outside of Bellevue or special interest groups.

I am offended by the blatant calls from CFH and other agencies to have people from outside of Bellevue weigh in as supporting this location. This is a local issue and the impacted residents should be considered first and foremost. The Eastgate location needs to be removed from consideration and other possible locations need to be found. I believe it is inappropriate and reckless judgement to place it in wooded area that is next to a College, residences, parks and schools.

I am requesting that each and every Council members represent our Eastgate neighborhood and continue to look for other more suitable locations.

I did sign the petition opposing this project and did so with clear understanding what I was signing.

This is not the correct area for a facility of this type and I oppose this project location.

Thank you,

Gretchan Lindsey

4/16/2017

RE: Proposed Motion No. 2017-0171

A MOTION declaring the criticality of regional planning, coordination and funding efforts to address the challenges of housing affordability in King County and establishing the regional affordable housing task force and associated standing advisory panel to develop a recommended countywide affordable housing strategy.

Eighteen months just to start does not bring meaningful relief in the near term. Other than the proposal, what are the nearer term options being put in place for relief?

Can you build into 2017-0171 the mid-stream checks with the citizens? Eighteen months is too long to wait. We need to buy-in step by step, before there is an overall plan.

Thank you,

-pamela johnston

4/16/2017

The proponents say Eastgate is rife with crime; that the shelter will improve Eastgate; that the location is not next to a residential neighborhood. Nonsense!

The mitigations mentioned in the city's due diligence are not contractual. They are possibilities.

The site is a hand-me-down property that is not suitable for a \$25million dollar, permanent investment.

Jim Nathman

4/16/2017

It has been a busy week with my 'day' job and expect that your meeting tomorrow may seem like a week. So a few thoughts on the eve of your next Council meeting:

- I hold each of you in highest regard and confident trust as you serve the citizens of Bellevue. Over the past years I have heard much said TO you and ABOUT you. I understand the "to" and I deplore the "about."
- When five of us launched Saint Andrew's Housing Group 32 years ago, affordable housing was the issue. Things haven't change for the better as Imagine continues to impact this issue in a bold and collaborative way.
- You have set a positive course of response to every issue of and around housing. You have funded shelters, including low barrier, through the Human Services and other funds you make available. We added monies for shelter in the last funding cycle. Then, you set \$70K aside for the Affordable Housing Initiative. You will hear from us on the 24th. It is bold and collaborative.
- I serve a regional faith community. We have members in every neighborhood of Bellevue and only one person, in the Wilburton, has brought significant concern about the permanent shelter. Concerns that disappeared after I shared the meaning of supportive housing. You all know of our deep support for The Sophia Way, Imagine, CfH, LifeWire, ELAP, Friends of Youth. Yet, in no instance do I speak for or on behalf of our faith community, but pathway of support speak loudly.
- I am privileged to serve under appointment on the Human Services Commission, TAG, and the Wilburton CAC. As such, I serve under the Council Goals, the Comprehensive Plan, the Diversity Plan, and Budget One. In fact, I read them through the lens of a Core Value of our city, Stewardship, management.
- I write as a citizen. I am not good at waving my hands, or wearing a special colored shirt at Council, but I support you and the staff in every decision. I will do so in the next years that I live in our city.
- I support the Permanent Men's Shelter because I trust CfH and Imagine. I walk beside them as they do the day to day of service.
- Yet, I understand most of the concerns that have been expressed pro and against this initiative. Especially, the fear that often accompanies any outreach to those who are homeless, hungry, and disoriented in this and any city.
- For now know that I will support the next iterations of shelter and affordable/sustainable housing in Bellevue as a model to every other municipality. I know of your, our, commitment that no one spend a night without safe dwelling.
- Finally, when asked about housing of any sort, I usually direct people to the Imagine sites. Strong collaborative impact with residential support. There has been NO significant uprising in any of the municipalities where Imagine has planted housing. And I invite them to check out Andrew's Glen (Vets), Velocity (TOD), Francis Village (Folks from even low barrier shelters), Athena (Senior Housing), and the original Andrew's Arms in Issaquah. The evolution is stunning and I can only imagine (1) how impactful it would be at the Permanent Men's Shelter.

Thank you for reading. Again, I hold you all in my best thoughts and promise to be a part of each of the next steps,
Jim McEachran

4/17/2017

I would also like to add something. I know that the individuals that want the low barrier shelter in Eastgate have put a lot of time, effort, and taxpayer money into pushing this project forward. Just because a lot of time, effort and taxpayer money have already been spent is not an excuse to push forward; rather, it shows more integrity to admit that this was a mistake and to look at another site in Bellevue, preferably in a light industrial area.

Sharon Chabal

4/17/2017

I'm an instructor at Bellevue College, writing in support of the proposed location for the Eastside Mens Homeless Shelter. My first reaction when I saw the location for the shelter was that it is extremely well placed because of the proximity of the College and the Park and Ride, and after reading more details over the past months, attending a city council meeting at the end of last year, and reading the proposed shelter due diligence reports, I remain convinced. Putting the shelter near the College means these men can potentially access training and other services at BC without worrying about transportation. On-site mass transit can open job and other opportunities for people who don't have a car. I have been surprised by the number of people who see the proximity of the College and Park and Ride as reasons NOT to place the shelter in this location, and want to comment on both.

Repeatedly, the fact that teenagers attend Bellevue College as part of Running Start has been cited as a reason not to have the shelter nearby, as if homeless people are criminals who prey on young people. People citing this concern seem to be unaware of or ignoring the fact that Bellevue College is an open enrollment college, and as such, we already serve a diverse student population, the vast majority of whom are adults. People who are concerned that the shelter would be "low barrier" should recognize that Bellevue College already has as part of its student population the same "low barrier" adults: people with mental health issues, people who are drug and alcohol addicts, registered sex offenders, and homeless people. The fact that we might have a slight increase in this population doesn't make me feel more or less safe. People who would seek a "low barrier" shelter are already living their lives in our community, taking classes at the College, and using the Eastgate Park and Ride. If people are concerned about Running Start students coming into contact with this population, they need to recognize that it is already happening, shelter or no shelter. Bellevue College primarily serves adults, and does not reject students simply because they fall in the "low barrier" category.

RE: personal safety, for the past several years I've taught an evening course that frequently has me leaving my building around 9:30pm to walk to my car. Last winter and spring quarter, the night janitors would frequently come to the classrooms in my building to lock up because (according to the janitor I spoke to) there had been a problem with homeless people seeking shelter in classrooms at night. We already have homeless people seeking shelter in the community. The lack of a dedicated shelter doesn't mean that they're not here, and the fact that they're here has never made me feel threatened or unsafe, as a single woman walking to my car alone at night. Bellevue is a city. I'll take the same precautions that I would in any city, with or without the shelter nearby. That said, I can't emphasize strongly enough my agreement with the presentation made by a police officer at the city council meeting I attended – that Bellevue College should make basic improvements to safety on campus regardless of the location chosen for a shelter. Lighting is poor, call boxes should be added, and cell phone reception is non-existent in many buildings and areas of campus. If I needed to call 911 for ANY reason, shelter or no, there are areas and classrooms on campus where I could not do so. Fixing this problem should be a priority for Bellevue College.

Finally, as the parent of two students in the Bellevue School District, one of whom takes the Metro bus several times monthly for middle school, I see no impact whatsoever on my son's safety by the possibility that he might be using the same bus as people who are served by the homeless shelter. I have no doubt that he has ridden a bus with homeless people before, and I don't automatically associate homelessness with criminality. Regardless, we have taught him what to do if someone on the bus or at the bus stop makes him feel uncomfortable, and safety is one of the reasons he has a cell phone. The fact that BSD students may be using the Eastgate Park and Ride (my son takes a bus about 2 stops away) should have absolutely no impact on whether or not a homeless shelter is opened nearby.

I'm heartened by the fact that the group opening the shelter has "a good track record." I'd be interested in knowing what Bellevue has studied re: what has worked and what hasn't in other communities. But from what I have seen and

read, I don't see the addition of this shelter in Eastgate as a threat to the safety of my workplace (Bellevue College), the Park and Ride, or my community (Woodridge), and in fact see it as a positive step towards addressing the problem of homelessness in our community.

Cathy Smith

4/17/2017

Thank you for your consideration of a permanent shelter for Homeless Men. The City of Bellevue's recognition of the need and your adoption of a City goal to create a solution are admirable. Eastside Friends Meeting, the Quaker Meeting located about one half mile from the Eastgate Park & Ride, urges you to move forward with the Eastgate site.

Our members have direct experience with serving people who are homeless. One of us lives adjacent to a site of Tent City in Redmond. Another lives just a few doors down from one of the sites in Kirkland and worked across the street from another Kirkland site for many years. As a group, Eastside Friends have regularly served meals and as individuals we have contributed resources to help both Tent City and Camp Unity. Our combined experiences and our Quaker faith tell us that the men who stay at these shelters are not people to be ignored, feared, or sent "somewhere else". They are our neighbors who deserve our love and respect and we must act to help them make a better life.

Concerns of neighbors surrounding the Eastgate site are to be expected; neighbors of any potential site might have similar concerns. The due diligence materials developed by your staff are informative and comprehensive. They tell us that there is no evidence of increased crime around the existing temporary sites, and that the adjacency to Bellevue College, King County Public Health and the Park & Ride are valuable assets unique to this site. Questions remain about how exactly the site will be developed, and precisely what role the City of Bellevue will play, but as was discussed at your April 3 Study Session, these can be best sorted out after a site is selected.

Thank you once again for tackling this complex issue and for acting to achieve your goal of addressing homelessness. Thank you for your vision, your leadership and for being willing to do the right thing by moving forward with the Eastgate site.

*Eastside Friends Meeting,
David Godfrey, Clerk*

4/17/2017

I am writing to voice my support for the proposed Eastside men's shelter and supportive housing project at Eastgate. The location near the public health center and the park and ride is a plus in terms of providing easier access to support services that residents may need. I know that some have expressed concern that the shelter will bring more crime to the area, but analysis by the Bellevue Police Department of crime near shelter sites clearly shows that that conclusion is unfounded.

I ask that the Council show true leadership by not allowing the facts to be drowned out by a fear of the unfamiliar. The research has been done and favors the Eastgate site. It's time for the Council to approve the site and let the building begin.

Martha Goelzer

4/17/2017

I am writing in support of the men's shelter at the Eastgate location. Homelessness isn't necessarily associated with Bellevue but it is and has been present on the eastside for many years. My family has been Bellevue residents for over 28 years and I grew up in Lake Hills, living a short distance to the west of the proposed site, I have observed homeless individuals living outside in our community for many years. The problem and circumstances are not going away. It is time to address the lack of provide of shelters, and provide the necessary services and affordable housing on the eastside.

The Eastgate location is a positive step in that direction. The partnerships of private and public agencies, the proximity to public transportation and health services provide positive reasons for moving forward with the site. The fear that the shelter will "attract" more homeless individuals is not grounded. More often than not, homeless individuals remain in communities they have ties to, either because they grew up there or want to remain close to their family/friends.

This project will not hurt our community it will strengthen it by providing stable housing and helping the men served through the shelter to access the services they require to improve their well-being.

Tom Rasnack

4/17/2017

There have been disgusting revelations that imply a miscarriage of representative government. The Petition (forwarded below) has the details.

As a key swing voter related to the siting of the Permanent Low Barrier Men's Shelter in Eastgate, I hope you will take the time to read the details and form your own opinion about which factions within the council are working for the interest of the Bellevue residents, and which factions are "fighting them off".

I have said it before and I will say it again - We are not fighting the NEED for a homeless shelter in Bellevue. We are asking the council to find another appropriate location that is not near a college, 3 preschools and idle cars in a P&R.

It is NOT Bellevue Residents vs. Homeless population. It is Bellevue Residents vs. Harmful policies that favor Special interests.

Tuli Davenport

4/17/2017

I was an early supporter of the Eastside Men's Shelter. I've followed the review process and discussions and today I can say that **I still support the shelter.** I live near Eastgate and have no concerns about the potential safety risks that have been raised. I applaud the Council, Police Department, and housing agencies for working together to address safety factors. I work for an Eastside social services agency and I'm very familiar with the homeless problem and the serious, effective work both CFH and Imagine housing have done to address the issue. I'm confident of their ability to manage the proposed shelter, transitional housing, and co-located support services.

Thank you, Council, for the open process you've conducted and for inviting residents to comment.

Judy Faast

4/17/2017

Which one of you asshats is going to be responsible if god forbid something happens to my family when they build that shelter next to my home. You have no idea what are you about to unleash.

You are playing with peoples lives here. Take that piece of shit shelter elsewhere, next to the police station and not near good communities. Assholes!

Liridon S.

City Council Meetings – August 1, 2016 –March 6, 2017

Oral Communications Minutes

8/1/2016

Steve Roberts, representing Congregations for the Homeless, thanked the City for partnering to develop an Eastside men's emergency shelter and a permanent supportive housing facility with social services. He said Congregations for the Homeless began on the Eastside in 1993. It has been helping homeless men since that time, with the specific mission of moving them into a life of stability and independence. He said 571 men accessed the winter shelter last year, and more than 600 men used the day center over the past year. Mr. Roberts said the new facility will have 100 beds, a larger day center, social services (medical, dental, mental health, substance use), and permanent housing units. Partners include King County, Imagine Housing, and the City. The project team has been researching facilities around the country to design a high-quality facility.

Sybil Glasby, Director of Housing Development for Imagine Housing, thanked the Mayor and Council for authorizing the City to enter into the Letter of Agreement related to developing the shelter and housing facility. She said Imagine Housing looks forward to developing the project in close proximity to transit and other services with the opportunity for permanent housing. Imagine Housing has more than 1,200 residents on the Eastside. The organization originated at St. Andrews Lutheran Church and has provided housing for 29 years. Ms. Glasby said there are 2,643 households on the waiting list for permanent affordable housing on the Eastside. She said permanent housing enables individuals to address other aspects of their lives including their health, employment and education.

Pat McDermott said he is a member of Christ the King Lutheran Church in the Eastgate area, which has been a host church through Congregations for the Homeless for 22 years. He is the volunteer chief financial officer for Congregations for the Homeless and serves as Vice Chair on its Board of Directors. He is treasurer and a Board member for Imagine Housing as well. He said he is grateful to be able to work with two organizations that have had such a positive impact on the Eastside. He thanked the City for addressing homelessness and affordable housing with regional partners, and for recognizing that housing stability is critical to regaining independence.

Stephanie Walter said that, as a Planning Commissioner, she was surprised during the earlier Study Session to hear about the proposed homeless men's shelter adjacent to future transit-oriented development (TOD) in the Eastgate area. She said the Eastgate Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) studied land use and transportation planning for approximately two years, and the Planning Commission reviewed the CAC's recommendations and held public hearings over the past year. She said a men's shelter is important for Bellevue. However, she would have preferred to hear about the Eastgate master plan before discussing whether a men's homeless shelter could be integrated into that plan. She noted her understanding that the shelter was originally discussed for a location in the Spring District. However, that site was changed to avoid interfering with the redevelopment envisioned in the BelRed Plan. Ms. Walter said she supports the need for a men's shelter and wants to ensure that the best site is chosen for the facility.

Oral Communications Minutes Cont.

9/12/2016

Michelle Wannamaker, an Eastgate resident, distributed maps of the area proposed for the new homeless shelter discussed with the Council before the August recess. She noted a conflict between two different maps of the area, with the homeless shelter on one map overlapping a pedestrian/public space on the other map. Ms. Wannamaker said that, during the two years of planning the homeless shelter project, no one ever mentioned the transit-oriented development (TOD) plans to the shelter partner agencies. Ms. Wannamaker said the homeless shelter was never discussed with the Planning Commission during its year-long review of the Eastgate/I-90 land use and transportation plan. She said an alternative location on the hillside has been taken out of consideration due to the steep slope and vegetation. She expressed concern that the Council will approve the Eastgate/I-90 Land Use Code amendments without first implementing the Citizen Advisory Committee's recommended traffic and transit improvements. She said this would be a violation of the Growth Management Act.

10/17/2016

Lindy Bruce expressed concerns regarding the proposed Eastgate homeless campus. She said she served on the Eastgate/I-90 Land Use Citizens Advisory Committee, which was tasked with providing a vision and plan for development in the area that would improve economic vitality and character, and ensure adequate transportation infrastructure. Ms. Bruce said the Council has sidestepped the work of the CAC, Planning Commission, Transportation Commission, and City staff by entering into an agreement with King County to develop the homeless campus at the transit-oriented development (TOD) site. She said residents understand the importance of addressing homelessness. However, the proposed location poses safety issues for residents, Bellevue College students, and commuters. Ms. Bruce encouraged the City to study homeless campuses in other parts of Puget Sound and around the country, and to consider the location after thorough study. Ms. Bruce submitted her comments in writing.

Susanna Chung said she understands the need for a homeless shelter. However, she wants the Eastgate location eliminated as a possible site. She said there was no public outreach by the City or its partners, and the related information on the City's web site is minimal. She said the shelter's clients will include addicts, sex offenders and mentally ill individuals. She expressed concern regarding the safety of residents, commuters, and students. She said there has been a lack of transparency in the handling of this proposal. Ms. Chung submitted her comments in writing.

Linda Nohavec said she was speaking on behalf of the Eastgate Residents Committee, which previously addressed the Council on September 19, 2016, with a letter presented by attorney Rick Aramburu. The letter identified concerns about the incompatibility of the proposed upzones in the Eastgate area. Ms. Nohavec said that, previously, there was no public notification or mention of a homeless shelter in the TOD. She said residents' review of documents generated by the Eastgate/I-90 CAC and Planning Commission over a six-year timeframe did not find any references to a homeless shelter or campus in the Eastgate TOD. Ms. Nohavec expressed concern regarding the impacts on businesses, including her own, and said the shelter violates the vision set forth for the area, including its role as a major gateway to Bellevue. She said the Seattle YWCA has become such a burden on Belltown residents that they avoid the area as much as possible. Businesses have lost customers in multiple areas of Seattle due to the proximity of shelters and addiction centers. Ms. Nohavec submitted her comments in writing.

Oral Communications Minutes Cont.

11/07/2016

Lisa Leitner said her family and 3,500 other residents live within one-quarter mile of the proposed Eastgate men's shelter. There are 33,000 residents in Eastgate, Lake Hills, and Factoria, which is approximately 25 percent of Bellevue's population. She said the Council approved a letter of agreement on August 3 with King County regarding the shelter. However, residents were not notified by the City. Ms. Leitner said members of the Eastgate Residents Council have spent many hours researching the proposed shelter and location, notifying neighbors, and attending community meetings. She questioned the decision process, including the determination to provide a shelter with supportive services and permanent housing. She said the permit application filed by ARCH (A 3 November 7, 2016 Regular Session

Regional Coalition for Housing) in April 2016 referred to an emergency shelter, but did not mention permanent housing. Ms. Leitner said residents, students, and business owners are concerned about public safety, primarily based on the shelter's low-barrier designation. The shelter is to be operated by Congregations for the Homeless, whose current shelter requirements state that individuals "must have current state picture identification, must allow CFH to run a criminal background check, must be willing to be drug and alcohol free, and to address any addiction issues." Ms. Leitner questioned why CFH is eliminating the requirements for identification cards and background checks from the proposed shelter entrance criteria. She said most residents do not oppose the shelter. However, they oppose the decision-making process and lack of transparency. She asked the City to engage in a transparent and honest public forum.

Tzachi Litov, an Eastgate resident, said homelessness is rare, brief and one-time in the Eastgate area because the community provides individuals what they need to quickly gain housing stability. She said a five-year strategic plan published by King County in September 2015 focused on addressing and eliminating homelessness, in part by moving away from costly crisis-oriented responses, and instead focusing on prevention and recovery. Ms. Litov said City Councilmember Robinson referred on Nextdoor Eastgate to a recent Washington Post article that highlighted the benefits and value of creating supportive housing facilities in residential areas. Those are different from Congregations for the Homeless traditional shelters, where men wait in long lines to access the shelter. Ms. Litov asked the Council to respect the work that has been completed and to look at the bigger picture. Instead of building a costly emergency shelter, she asked the Council to implement options that are supported by the community and that help to prevent homelessness. She spoke in favor of transit-oriented development (TOD) that includes housing, shopping, schools and job centers in one location.

Colin Jenkel said he lives in the Eastgate area across I-90 from the proposed men's shelter location. He acknowledged that shelters serve as a critical intervention point for the disadvantaged, addicted, and traumatized. He said he supports their implementation and maintenance. He said the problem of homelessness will continue to grow as housing costs increase. Mr. Jenkel said a robust debate on the Nextdoor platform indicates concerns about the process used to construct an important component of the community's social safety net. He suggested that the Council form an advisory committee composed of residents to help guide the shelter's siting and programs

Pastor Lisa Horst Clark, First Congregational Church of Bellevue, thanked the Council for addressing solutions for homelessness, and expressed support for the proposed Eastgate men's shelter. She said her church houses a Congregations for the Homeless men's day center as well as a child care center. She said CFH operates an effective program, and there have been no issues related to the men's drop-in center or child care center. Pastor Clark encouraged the community to consider how it can recognize diverse needs and bring neighborhoods together.

Oral Communications Minutes Cont.

Beth Zobel spoke in favor of the proposed Eastgate men's shelter. She has volunteered with Congregations for the Homeless over the past 12 years at a number of locations, and 4 November 7, 2016 Regular Session

has never felt unsafe working in the men's shelters. However, she has felt unsafe at times walking in the Factoria area. She said the shelter would provide needed resources including case management, a police presence, dental and medical services, and other supportive services.

Tom Perea spoke in opposition to the Eastgate men's shelter. He observed that many residents are primarily concerned about the lack of public outreach regarding the project. He asked the City to slow the process down and to involve the community. He said this is a permanent project that could have broad implications for the future and for the effectiveness in helping the homeless. He noted concerns about the unknown in terms of who the residents will be and whether they will be safe. He said residents want a solution for the homeless.

11/14/2016

Steve Sanchez, commented that current homeless individuals living in tent city are likely to not be comfortable in the proposed low barrier Eastgate shelter. He opposes the Eastgate shelter as planned, and noted the problems related to the homeless in Seattle. He said low barrier shelters can have dangerous people, and he expressed concern about the proximity and accessibility of the Eastgate area to Seattle. He noted individuals in the audience wearing purple shirts who are opposed to a low barrier shelter. Mr. Sanchez encouraged the City to pursue both community input as well as analysis and review of the plan by experts in dealing with homeless issues.

Jim Black, speaking on behalf of the Eastgate Residents Community, expressed support for the vision of the proposed Eastgate Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA) with a few exceptions. He noted the need to update the traffic study completed in 2010 and to analyze noise impacts. He expressed concern regarding the increased FAR (floor-area ratio) to be allowed and the impact of redevelopment on the tree canopy. He said that park property in the area should not be used for setbacks, retention ponds, or other features. He said the current park and ride lot is at capacity, and there are no plans to increase transit services.

Brigit Hansen, a resident of Harmony townhomes near the proposed men's shelter, said there is a petition with more than 2,200 signatures from individuals who oppose the plan. She submitted a map depicting schools, child care centers, and residential areas within a one-mile radius of the site. Residents are concerned about the concept of a low barrier shelter with less strict rules. Ms. Hansen said they would like to work with the City in finding a solution, and she encouraged full transparency in the process.

Michelle Wannamaker, an Eastgate resident, said she attended her first Transportation Commission meeting on October 13 after seeing that the agenda included a presentation on the 2016 concurrency report. She learned that one of the commissioners is a former traffic engineer. He said the data modeling showing that Eastgate traffic is at 70 percent of capacity is inaccurate in representing existing conditions. Ms. Wannamaker said the Commission ended the meeting by indicating that it would like to review how the City evaluates traffic at a future meeting. She said concurrency reports are intended as part of a checks and balance under the Growth Management Act. She asked the Council to not approve the Eastgate/I-90 Land Use Code Amendment based on inaccurate data. She said she learned that the data modeling software was developed in conjunction with Redmond and Kirkland approximately 20 years ago. She understands that the transportation levy includes money for new software. However, she asked the Council to delay approval of the amendments until the traffic study is updated. Ms. Wannamaker said the Planning Commission voted on July 27 to

Oral Communications Minutes Cont.

approve the Eastgate/I-90 project. On July 29, residents and the Planning Commission first heard about a homeless shelter at Eastgate when the City Council August 1 meeting agenda was posted.

11/21/2016

Julia Tai thanked the Council for its efforts to provide a homeless shelter. However, she expressed concern regarding the proposed site near the Eastgate Park and Ride, Bellevue College, and 235 townhomes. She said homeowners were not notified of the proposed project. She noted the college's Running Start program for high school students. Ms. Tai expressed safety concerns related to the proposed low-barrier shelter, which will include men with mental, social, and medical problems. She suggested an approach with smaller shelters focused on specific homeless populations. She would like to help the homeless and not enable them. Ms. Tai encouraged the City to work with residents and, if a citizens advisory committee is established, to appoint more residents than homeless advocates to the committee.

Marty Roberts spoke on behalf of Backstage Dance Studio and expressed her concerns about the proposed men's homeless shelter near her business. She questioned whether studies have been completed regarding the project and its impacts. She expressed concern about the ability to ensure public safety given that the shelter will house addicts, sex offenders, mentally ill individuals, and men with criminal records. She understands the need for the shelter and services. However, she would like to see a public outreach and engagement process. She questioned the City's efforts to gather information and educate the community.

Jim Black referenced the petition of 2,320 individuals who are concerned about the proposed men's shelter. He questioned the public process for the project and asked whether the City intends to establish a citizens committee. He said there is a level of fear in the community and it is important to have a solution that includes everyone.

Paul Bell, an Eastgate resident, thanked the City for its efforts to reach out to neighbors and Bellevue College regarding the proposed men's shelter. He expressed support for creating a safe space for men to improve their lives and move forward. He asked the City to continue supporting the shelter.

Jahkari Singh spoke in support of the proposed Eastgate men's shelter. He said he is the external legislative affairs representative for Bellevue College students. He believes this is an ideal location due to the adjacent health and social services. He said students researched the issue of homelessness and organized a public forum to discuss the needs of the individuals who will live at the shelter. He said the project includes a day center and permanent housing, and is a good location for homeless individuals who are currently attending Bellevue College. He said the homeless men currently sleeping on campus will have a place to go for help.

11/28/2016

Larry Noel spoke in opposition to the proposed low-barrier men's shelter. He noted that he worked in Bellevue schools for 21 years and in Issaquah schools for the remainder of his career. He supports the need and the work to help the homeless, but he is protective of the youth who use Robinswood Park and the students attending Bellevue College. He is concerned that the shelter will not properly screen its residents for the use of drugs and alcohol and for criminal records. He said shelter residents will not be required to have proper identification.

Marcia Edwards, speaking on behalf of the Wilburton Community Association, expressed concerns about the interim men's homeless shelter in their neighborhood including the lack of notification to residents, personal safety, property

Oral Communications Minutes Cont.

crimes, loitering, and littering. She said a recent neighborhood poll indicated that 86 percent of 126 Wilburton residents oppose the shelter. She asked the City to secure a permanent location outside of the Wilburton community. She said the presence of a low-barrier, interim shelter in the Wilburton commercial area is inconsistent with the planned development in the community (i.e., Grand Connection, Eastside Rail Corridor trail, new elementary school, two light rail stations, and new retail/residential development). Ms. Edwards submitted her comments in writing.

Nancy Bent, a resident of the College Hill Skyridge neighborhood, spoke in support of the proposed Eastgate men's homeless shelter. Her church is a member of Congregations for the Homeless, and she and her family have served dinners and volunteered at the existing shelter. She recently visited Bellevue's winter shelter, which is slightly different than the program at her church. She said men are logged in at the entrance, food service is well organized, and a staff member manages the data entry to keep records up to date. She spoke in favor of providing the opportunity for homeless individuals to return to a life with a job and a place to live. She thanked the Council for its leadership on this issue.

Grant Degginger, a resident of the Lakemont/Cougar Mountain neighborhood, said his synagogue is a founding member of Congregations for the Homeless. He thanked the Council for its coordinated, long-term response to address homelessness. He expressed support for the proposed Eastgate homeless shelter and permanent supportive housing facility. He recalled working several years ago, as a former Bellevue Mayor, on regulations to govern Tent City 4. Mr. Degginger said homelessness on the Eastside is not a problem that can be wished away. He noted that the men's shelter is an important part of a collaborative effort that leverages the resources of a number of agencies. He said the Eastgate location is not adjacent to a single-family neighborhood and it will be collocated with social services. Mr. Degginger said the City is skilled in meeting the needs and addressing the concerns of everyone in the community

Jack Morrison, a resident of the Forest Ridge neighborhood, spoke in support of the Eastgate men's homeless shelter and permanent housing. He was asked by the leadership of Aldersgate United Methodist Church to communicate their endorsement of the shelter and adjacent services. He believes the City has conducted a thorough analysis of the placement of the shelter and developed a solid plan for added security. He is pleased to see Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing as collaborative partners. He thanked the Council for addressing the issue and said it is important to be responsible for those who are unable to provide for themselves.

Aviv Litov spoke opposed to the proposed Eastgate location for the low-barrier men's homeless shelter. He is a student at Bellevue College and would feel less safe at the college. He noted that most other shelters, including Tent City and the Union Gospel Mission, turn away individuals who are felons, sex offenders, or currently involved in dealing or using drugs. Mr. Litov expressed concern that those individuals will end up in the low-barrier shelter. He has been unable to identify any low-barrier shelters in Seattle. He is not opposed to low-barrier shelters but feels it is not appropriate next to an open college campus, high school, youth dance studio, and transit center. He already does not feel safe at transit centers and noted that he was assaulted outside of a bus tunnel in Seattle. He said there is a high level of drug dealing and use at 3rd Avenue and Pine Street in Seattle, which is a central transit location. Mr. Litov said he worked with the homeless for 10 years and he knows individuals who are currently homeless and looking for a place to live.

Lara Litov spoke against the proposed low-barrier men's shelter in the Eastgate area and expressed concern that there will be more theft and crime. She suggested that a better location would be away from transit centers and near medical and social services. She said data indicates that two-thirds of chronically homeless individuals are substance abusers. Ms. Litov said it is inappropriate to place the shelter near Bellevue College and to expose students to the related risks. Ms. Litov asked the Council to establish a task force representing a cross-section of Bellevue residents and professionals

Oral Communications Minutes Cont.

to research the community's needs and identify better options. She asked the Council to set aside funds to hold organizations and City partners accountable and to compile outcome data. Ms. Litov submitted copies of a list of web links for more information on the siting and impacts of homeless shelters.

12/5/2017

Kathryn Kitchen said that recent discussions about the proposed Eastgate shelter identify the residents as middle-class, middle-aged men who have lost jobs. She said studies actually indicate that a large percentage are recently incarcerated, addicts, mentally ill, and/or chronically homeless. She said it may feel compassionate to build the shelter. However, it is important to understand the residents and their distinctive needs. She noted that a number of homeless individuals are LGBT, who might be particularly vulnerable in this type of shelter. She asked the City to work with surrounding residents to create the right program and facility. Ms. Kitchen submitted her comments in writing

Sid Golestane, President of the Sunset Ridge Homeowners Association, expressed opposition to the men's homeless shelter proposed for the Eastgate area. The condominium community consists of 71 units, including 17 units owned by single women. He said an online petition against the shelter has been signed by approximately 2,500 individuals. He expressed concern that the Bellevue Police Department's crime analysis is not capturing an accurate picture.

Linda Nohavec said she has been researching the Eastgate Shelter pre-application documents provided by the City in response to a public disclosure request. She is disappointed and concerned about that lack of transparency related to the project. She said a Land Use Code Amendment was adopted in 2015 that would allow this use in the Eastgate transit-oriented development (TOD), and the Planning Commission has not reviewed the proposal. She said the previous week's Council meeting prompted discussions outside of the Council Chamber with faith-based congregations. She opined that there was a lack of facts among the groups, and the majority were not aware of other proposed locations, including in the Spring District. She said the Spring District is not considered a viable option because it could threaten commercial and other development. However, there are not the same concerns for Eastgate residents and property owners,

12/12/2016

Linda Nohavec read comments written by Lisa Leitner on behalf of the Eastgate Residents Committee. She thanked the Council for listening to residents' concerns about the proposed low-barrier men's shelter. She said residents look forward to working with the City following the holiday break.

Tzachi Litov, an Eastgate resident, said he is the director of a private mental health facility in Bellevue. He asked the Council to reconsider any decision about the placement of a shelter of the proposed scope in the Eastgate neighborhood. He requested that a citizens advisory committee be formed before any location decisions are made. He thanked Councilmembers for their work on behalf of the community. He noted the crime statistics analysis provided by the Bellevue Police Department to the Council and observed that crime rates are highest around existing homeless shelters. He expressed concern that drug crimes are not mentioned in the report. Mr. Litov said he and others recently met with the Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC), an organization that hosts multiple low-barrier shelters in the Seattle area as well as supportive housing, AIDS housing, and other services. Mr. Litov noted that DESC is not mentioned in any of the information related to the proposed Eastgate shelter that has been provided by staff or by Congregations for the Homeless. DESC has operated emergency homeless shelters for 37 years, won national awards,

Oral Communications Minutes Cont.

and been featured in documentary films. Mr. Litov suggested that DESC has not been consulted because much of the organization's statistics and information do not support claims made by the proponents of the Eastgate shelter location. He provided his comments in writing as well as copies of DESC's annual report.

James Young, a resident of the Woodridge neighborhood since 1967, said that Congregations for the Homeless has been in operation for 22 years. He said the proposed Eastgate shelter is a low-barrier, but not zero-barrier, facility. He said behavioral issues are addressed and individuals who cause problems are not allowed to remain in the shelter. He said the Eastgate location has a number of advantages including nearby public services and transit.

David Bowling said Congregations for the Homeless has been serving homeless individuals for 22 years. He lives 1,500 yards from the proposed shelter site and has two children. He feels confident that CFH will properly operate the shelter. He said crime has not increased related to homeless shelters, including at the current temporary Lincoln Center location. He said shelter residents will have supportive services in the Eastgate area to help move the men out of homelessness. He thanked Councilmembers for their work and wished everyone "Happy Holidays."

Jason Kidd, a longtime member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Bellevue and a mortgage banker, expressed support for the Eastgate site for a men's homeless shelter. He said that Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing have successfully operated programs and services in Bellevue for more than 20 years. He noted the Sophia Way permanent women's shelter and day center at St. Luke's Church. He said crime has not increased related to homeless shelters.

1/09/2017

Ray White encouraged the Council to approve Bellevue College's request to waive compensation related to the vacation of a portion of 145th Avenue SE, north of SE 26th Street. He said the Bellevue College Board of Trustees will vote this week on the 30-year Master Plan, which includes plans to build student housing. He expressed support for the proposed homeless shelter in the area. He described the portion of road involved in the street vacation, which will allow the college to realign the roadway. Mr. White said the waived compensation would be used to build bicycle infrastructure on campus.

Clare Moe, a Board member for Congregations for the Homeless, said it is inhumane to have individuals living outdoors. She spoke in support of the proposed Eastgate homeless men's shelter and permanent housing adjacent to social services, the transit center, and Bellevue College. She said Congregations for the Homeless has operated an overnight shelter in Bellevue for eight years and a day centers for three years, with no increase in violent crime. She said the Bellevue Police Department's data indicates a decrease in drug crimes in the area surrounding the former BelRed location. Ms. Moe thanked the Council for their work and vision.

Villette Nolon, Interim Executive Director of Imagine Housing, said the overnight men's shelter has been operating for eight years. She said the City studied a number of sites for the new shelter and permanent housing, and the Eastgate location is the best site given its proximity to social services, transit, and Bellevue College. She said Imagine Housing is working closely with Congregations for the Homeless, and she asked the City to move forward with the Eastgate proposal.

Oral Communications Minutes Cont.

Rand Redlin spoke in support of the proposed Eastgate men's shelter. He lives in the Newport Shores area and houses exchange students attending Bellevue College. He believes the City has done its due diligence in studying potential sites. He said Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing have strong track records in providing services for homeless individuals.

Linda Nohavec said that increasing luxury residential development and high-end commercial real estate encourage developers to pay in-lieu fees instead of providing affordable housing. She said Wright Runstad was granted the right to pay the fee for its development in the Spring District. She said that developer is a member of the City's Affordable Housing Technical Advisory Group (TAG). She questioned how this selective land use practice encourages or supports the City's urgent need for affordable housing. She quoted language from the City's web site that: "Bellevue welcomes the world. Our diversity is our strength." She opined that the diversity initiative is flawed and discriminates against residents below a certain economic threshold. She said the selection of the Eastgate shelter location sends a clear message that economic diversity is not invited or encouraged in or near the Spring District. She suggested that residents educate themselves about the issue. Ms. Nohavec said attention should be directed at those who opposed and litigated to keep the permanent shelter out of the Downtown core and Spring District.

Steve Sanchez spoke regarding the challenges for the men's shelter. He said the \$20 million project will serve only men, and he asked the City to help women too. He expressed concern regarding the proximity of the proposed Eastgate shelter to the bus line connecting from Seattle. He recently counted approximately 26 tents near the transit tunnel in Seattle's Rainier Valley. He talked to six of the homeless individuals, who responded favorably to the potential for an Eastgate shelter. However, he opined that the bus fare is potentially a barrier.

1/17/2017

Sid Golenstane, President of the Sunset Ridge Homeowners Association, submitted a petition signed by more than 2,500 individuals opposed to the proposed Eastgate homeless men's shelter. Comments by individuals are attached to the petition. Mr. Golenstane said approximately 90 percent of the signers are Bellevue residents, and others are parents and grandparents of Bellevue College students.

Lindy Bruce spoke in opposition to the Eastgate homeless men's shelter. She said that transit-oriented development (TOD) is an essential component for the economic viability of the Eastgate Land Use and Transportation Plan. She asked the Council to work toward the vision of that plan. She said the homeless shelter was originally a winter emergency shelter in the BelRed area. However, the project has become a year-round, low-barrier overnight shelter for 100 men with a day center for 125 men and permanent housing for 50-80 men. She questioned the funding source for infrastructure and increased services related to the project. She noted the lack of Comprehensive Plan amendments and Land Use Code amendments to support the siting of the shelter. Ms. Bruce expressed concern that one area of the community is expected to accept the impacts of the shelter. She asked the Council to establish a citizens advisory committee before moving forward with additional planning. Ms. Bruce submitted written comments.

Kathryn Kitchen spoke opposed to the Eastgate homeless shelter. She said the Congregations for the Homeless current intake form requires identification, a criminal background check, and that residents be drug and alcohol free. She said federal funding requires low-barrier entry to shelters in its Housing First approach, which requires the admittance of felons, addicts, and sex offenders. She said the proposed shelter is too close to students, parks, neighborhoods, and businesses. She noted the need for security and safety for shelter residents and the community. Ms. Kitchen said the

Oral Communications Minutes Cont.

current plan is incomplete and does not fully address the impacts to the community. She submitted her comments in writing.

Claudia Browers spoke in favor of the Eastgate homeless men's shelter and thanked the Council for supporting all of its citizens. She said Bellevue Police Department information indicates that the current winter shelter and day center have not increased crime. She has volunteered with both Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing and knows their history of success in moving individuals out of homelessness. She said shelters provide a safe environment, and she is convinced that the Eastgate site is the best option. She encouraged the Council to move forward to eliminate homelessness in Bellevue.

Aaron Meyer, one of the Rabbis of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, spoke in support of the Eastgate homeless shelter. The temple has a religious school and preschool program. He said it is important for children to learn that the community will not turn its back on them if they become homeless due to job loss, addiction, or a financial crisis related to illness. He expressed support for the proposed shelter site adjacent to social and health services that will provide a safe facility for homeless men. He said the site is located near a number of religious institutions including First Presbyterian Church, the Mormon Temple, and St. Andrew's Church. He said it is important to not leave the homeless men alone.

1/23/2017

Ray White spoke about the Eastgate men's homeless shelter, noting the differing opinions of students and others at Bellevue College. He said homeless individuals are currently living on and near the campus. He said there are community concerns regarding a low barrier shelter. He noted that Bellevue College is a no barrier institution. He observed that many public perceptions are fear based. He said Bellevue College represents improving lives, second chances, and open access. Mr. White said Bellevue College supports the shelter and is excited to be a partner.

Farida Hakim said she has lived in the Eastgate area since 1986. She said she originally thought the proposed men's homeless shelter site was an ideal location. However, she has learned that there are a number of concerns among residents and other Eastgate neighbors. Ms. Hakim asked the Council to address the safety concerns. She noted that Seattle University has a program that provides student escorts. She said the recent fire at the mosque in Bellevue illustrates the challenge of dealing with the homeless and with mental illness. She suggested that, if the man arrested for setting the fire had access to a shelter and services, the fire might not have occurred. She encouraged the Council to work with Congregations for the Homeless to address the community's concerns.

Cheryl Jurrus, a retired teacher and current volunteer with Congregations for the Homeless, spoke in support of the Eastgate men's shelter. She said there is already a low barrier shelter in Bellevue that has been successfully operated by CFH for eight years. She noted that essentially all public places are low barrier with regard to access. She said homelessness has many causes and many solutions. CFH works closely with veterans groups, mental health agencies, Imagine Housing, and the County voucher system for housing. Ms. Jurrus said the proposed Eastgate shelter will include transitional housing units. She said CFH has a medium barrier program for homeless men that rotates through 12 local churches. She said no location is perfect for the shelter, but the Eastgate location is good because it is close to public transportation and other services and it is surrounded by office buildings and a greenbelt.

Oral Communications Minutes Cont.

Steve Sanchez spoke about the Eastgate men's shelter, noting that he has been involved with the homeless community since the late 1990s in his work with Homeless Youth Ministries and Tent City 4. He commented on the attempts of the City of Seattle and the Washington State Department of Transportation to clear homeless camps. He visited an area in Seattle recently cleared by the police, and homeless individuals had reestablished their tents. In speaking with the individuals, he said he was offered crack cocaine and introduced to a woman he suspected was a prostitute. Mr. Sanchez said that, while the current temporary Eastside shelter has been effective, it rotates through different locations. He expressed concern that a more permanent shelter facility will attract drugs and sex trafficking.

Linda Nohavec, representing the Eastgate Residents Committee, spoke against locating the homeless men's shelter in the Eastgate area. She said she has been reviewing records obtained through public disclosure requests. She referred to meeting minutes of a previous City Council meeting in which Mayor Stokes commented that he was puzzled that members of the community felt the decision on the shelter location had already been made. She questioned whether other locations are being studied. She referred to similar comments by Councilmember Wallace, who she said also noted that there had been no public discussion about whether or how the shelter is congruent with the Eastgate master plan or how the impacts would be mitigated at the site. Ms. Nohavec said those issues have not been addressed. She recalled that Councilmember Robertson previously commented: "This is the first document we should have developed as part of the backgrounding for this project." Ms. Nohavec said she believed the reference was to the report of secondary impacts. She expressed concern about the negative impacts of the shelter on businesses and housing. She asked the Council to address unanswered questions.

2/13/2017

Darel Harrison expressed support for the proposed homeless men's shelter in the Eastgate area, which provides close access to transit as well as health and social services. She said it will be operated by two stellar organizations: Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing. She said Bellevue has a wonderful opportunity to provide well-planned homeless housing.

Don Castle addressed the negative stereotypes of homeless individuals. He has volunteered with Congregations for the Homeless for a number of years. He shared two stories about men who he got to know at the shelter and who were ultimately able to get their lives back on track. He said that most men in the shelter want to work. Mr. Castle said he feels safe at the shelter. He thanked the Council for their leadership and support.

Hester Winn said she has worked for Imagine Housing for the past eight years. She asked the Council to support the proposed Eastgate shelter and permanent housing. She said the location has good access to transit, a grocery store, social services, and other businesses. She said Congregations for the Homeless have been successful in the operation of the existing shelter and day center. She thanked the Council for being a leader in addressing homelessness.

Julie Wheeler expressed concerns regarding the location of the proposed Eastgate homeless shelter. She noted the national heroin epidemic and said the shelter will prohibit drug and alcohol usage at the facility. However, Ms. Wheeler said individuals can easily buy drugs from dealers at the adjacent Park and Ride lot. She believes the community would not be concerned about transitional housing, but there are concerns about the proposed low-barrier shelter concept.

Oral Communications Minutes

Cont.

2/21/2017

Cynthia Vautier shared information from her conversation with a director of a homeless shelter in Michigan that serves 10 counties. She said the Housing First model's objective is to help stabilize and move individuals to permanent housing as soon as feasible. Case managers work with each individual who is placed in the supportive apartment housing. Ms. Vautier noted that the Housing First model allows residents to ingest contraband because the focus of the program is on appropriate behavior. She said the program works because the case worker lives or works on site and there is peer pressure to earn each other's respect. She said the model involves police cooperation focused on behavioral issues versus illegal substance abuse. Ms. Vautier said the program in Michigan experienced 100 emergency 911 calls over a year related to its temporary homeless shelter. When the program shifted to the Housing First model with apartment housing, there were three 911 calls the following year. Ms. Vautier said the geographical separation of emergency housing from permanent housing is the key to success. She submitted her comments in writing.

Gordon Wilson expressed support for the proposed homeless shelter in the Eastgate area. He said homelessness cannot be wished away, and the cost of housing continues to increase. He said Congregations for the Homeless is a well managed organization with a strong track record that receives generous volunteer support from the faith communities. He said the organization understands the need for hope and dignity in supporting the homeless. Mr. Wilson said the Eastgate location is ideal due to the grade separation from residential areas and the proximity to services, transit, and Bellevue College.

Anoulka Pangney said she is from France and has been living on the Eastside for approximately five years. She began volunteering with Congregations for the Homeless approximately one year ago. She discovered a great organization and learned that her previous stereotypes of the homeless were wrong. She said the shelters help all types and ages of people, including those suffering from illnesses. She said the emergency shelter and day center have been operating for several years. However, there is a need for permanent housing to help people transition out of homelessness. She said the task to end homelessness is everyone's responsibility.

Sterling Bentsen said he has heard comments in favor of and opposed to the proposed Eastgate homeless shelter. With regard to concerns raised by the community, Mr. Bentsen said that any of our neighbors could be drug addicts, alcoholics, criminals, mentally ill, and sex offenders. Shelter housing provides the stability needed for individuals to maintain jobs, reconnect with their families, and become productive with their lives. He said he wishes the term "low-barrier" had not been used with regard to the Eastgate shelter because all of the types of individuals who trigger concerns are already in our community. He encouraged everyone to work together to help the homeless. Mr. Bentsen submitted his comments in writing.

2/28/2017

Robert Long expressed support for the proposed men's homeless shelter. He commended the City for addressing the shelter and for its support of Congregations for the Homeless. He described working as a volunteer in the current low-barrier CFH shelter. He noted concerns in the community about safety and security. He said he has never felt unsafe in the shelter, and volunteers are treated with kindness and respect. He has not observed violence or drug or alcohol usage in his work with the shelter. He encouraged community members to join him in working with the homeless, noting that he has been inspired by the homeless men's determination, intelligence, and patience.

Kaz Uchimura said he is a mental illness professional. He supports the proposed Eastgate homeless men's shelter and permanent housing project. He encouraged the development of additional affordable housing in Bellevue as well. He

Oral Communications Minutes Cont.

introduced Ralph Casillas, who described his past experience with homelessness and with now helping others. Mr. Casillas expressed support for the shelter and noted the need for assistance and services for homeless individuals. Cheryl Zettler, a Spiritwood resident, expressed concern regarding the proposed homeless shelter and the potential impacts on surrounding residents, businesses, and college students. She expressed concern regarding the negative impact on property values. She said the community wants to help the homeless. However, she believes that Bellevue's low-barrier facility will become a national magnet, like Seattle, for troubled homeless men. She encouraged efforts focused on crisis prevention rather than mitigation. She expressed concern that the facility will attract drug dealing. She asked where the homeless men will go when they leave the facility (e.g., college campus, Robinswood Park). She asked the City to work with the community to design a win-win approach.

Michelle Wannamaker said she received a document from the City listing the 14 sites originally evaluated for the proposed homeless shelter, day center, and supportive housing. The list indicates that the current temporary shelter site conflicts with the planned redevelopment of the Wilburton area. She said redevelopment of the Eastgate area has been planned for some time, and the related Land Use Code Amendments have been prepared for Council consideration. She said the Eastgate public health site has a fatal flaw. If the Wilburton redevelopment takes the current site off the table, Ms. Wannamaker said the Eastgate corridor study should remove the public health site as well.

Betsi Hummer asked the Council to send the proposed Eastgate Land Use Code Amendments back to the Planning Commission. She said the Eastgate/I-90 Citizens Advisory Committee worked on the plan for two years. After a delay of several years, the Planning Commission reviewed the plan over an 18-month period. She said there was never any discussion about a homeless shelter. She said the Planning Commission approved its recommended Land Use Code Amendments on a Wednesday night, and the homeless shelter proposal was presented to the City Council for the first time on the following Monday. Ms. Hummer suggested that the Eastgate/I-90 corridor plan should be reviewed again by the Planning Commission, taking the proposed homeless shelter and housing into consideration. She said homelessness is a citywide problem that should not be addressed solely in one neighborhood.

Dena Fantle encouraged the Council to be thoughtful in choosing the location for the men's homeless shelter, the type of shelter, and the shelter capacity. She suggested scattering multiple locations throughout the community and avoiding the low barrier model. She said the presence of a shelter will impact residents and businesses within two miles of the shelter, and farther away if it is low barrier. She said she has heard Bellevue Police say that crime does increase around temporary shelter locations. She encouraged the City to be creative in finding a solution and to consider the impacts of one larger shelter on the adjacent neighborhood. She asked the Council to work with King County to oppose any safe injection sites in Bellevue.

3/6/2017

Tom Kussy expressed concern about men's homeless shelter. He said homeless are portrayed as victims of bad circumstances and that is probably mostly true. However, if so, why does shelter need to be low-barrier? Is it fair to some shelter patrons to be exposed to sharing space with substance users, mentally ill, etc.? He expressed concern that homeless will come to Bellevue, especially because low-barrier. Even if well behaved in shelter, what about outside of the shelter and in community? He understands that low-barrier is funding requirement. Concern that being pushed on community. Impacts on families, commuters, students, etc. Need plan that works for everyone - safety, security, peace, etc.

Oral Communications Minutes Cont.

Lisa Leitner asked to leave binders - mayor said okay after she talks. Stated her underlying interest. Said they read through meeting minutes and other documents, which is in binder. Expressed concern that community not involved in early 2016 when shelter site was being finalized. She said City staff originally listed concerns that the public now is voicing. Has not heard a developer offer land, or anyone wanting the shelter in their neighborhood. We're all NIMBYs and _____. Noted how well community responds to helping, including recent mosque fire.

Julia Tai lives near proposed shelter site. Recently heard City is forming advisory group regarding low-barrier shelter. If correct, she wants to know the following: 1) _____, 2) list of those on group, 3) and 4). Would like a response via, she gave options for providing info she wants – website, etc. She was making the point that she's not necessarily expecting a direct response to her.

Kathryn Jacoby, Imagine Housing, works with CFH, encouraged approval of Eastgate shelter. Good location by transit. Said community's fears are unsupported by data. There are already homeless people in Bellevue. 500 at shelter? and others in annual homeless count. Police report no crime increase around current shelter. Believes no one deserves to be homeless. Thanks for willingness to invest in shelter and the time spent in doing this right.

3/13/2017

Lara Litov said she and her family have been working with the homeless over the past 25 years. She urged the Council to hire an expert, independent consultant to study the development of a homeless shelter and permanent housing in Bellevue. She said this would take a step toward healing the fractures in the community due to concerns about communications with the public. She said Congregations for the Homeless has no official written business plan that has been released to the public. She said no bank would give a loan to businesses without independently audited financial statements or a cohesive business plan. She said the consultants found that 25 percent of the long-term programs in Seattle did not meet success requirements, yet have been given funding for years. She said CFH is a good organization, but the consultant might be able to help them to become a more sustainable model.

Julie Wheeler said she is opposed to the homeless men's shelter as proposed with a low-barrier designation. She recently attended a forum in which David Bowling of Congregations for the Homeless was available to answer. He admitted that he has no statistics on low barrier shelters, which is troubling for the community. She said the shelter should not be placed so close to homes in the Eastgate area. She said Mr. Bowling reported that he was given five of six locations for the shelter, and none were in the Spring District which was originally targeted for the shelter. Ms. Wheeler said the Spring District is a better location because it is in close proximity to hospitals, transit, and police, and away from schools. She said Mr. Bowling indicated he would have been happy with that location and the current Lincoln Center location. She recalled public comment before the Council the previous week in support of Aaron Laing to fill the vacant Council position. She said Mayor Stokes won the election against Mr. Laing in 2011 by 51 votes. She said Mr. Stokes received campaign donations from Wright Runstad, the developer of the Spring District. She expressed concern that Wright Runstad opted to pay a fee in lieu of providing affordable housing as part of that development. Ms. Wheeler alleged a conflict of interest for Mayor Stokes and asked him to recuse himself from this decision.

Maria Balsamo commented on how she loves Bellevue, and she does a lot of walking in her neighborhood adjacent to Bellevue College. She recently discovered the proposed homeless shelter will be a block from her house. She is concerned about the homeless and cares about them, but she is worried that a low barrier shelter will have sex offenders, criminals, and mentally ill individuals. Ms. Balsamo said that, even if shelter residents behave properly in the

Oral Communications Minutes Cont.

shelter, that is no guarantee of their behavior outside of the shelter. She expressed concern that she will not feel safe walking in the area, especially in the wooded trails, if the shelter is placed in that area.

Garrett Guiler, Board Vice President for Imagine Housing, acknowledged the community's concerns about the homeless shelter. He said Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing want to do their best with regard to the proposed Eastgate shelter. However, there are risks and the organizations cannot guarantee that problems will not occur. He said the need is great and they have selected a site that they believe can work for the community. He said the intent is to provide a path to affordable housing and to give people a second chance and a place to call home. He referred to the earlier comments regarding Mr. Bowling with CFH and said Imagine Housing is available to address those comments. He encouraged the Council to make a decision as soon as possible.

Clara Fernandes said she has been working at the current shelter for four years serving meals. She said residents are regular people, and some have jobs. She said the men are respectful and helpful. She took her children to work at the shelter as well and said they enjoyed it. She questioned how the community can turn the homeless away and not help to feed them and provide shelter. She invited the Council to visit the current shelter.

Nathan Tucker spoke to the importance of having a homeless shelter in Bellevue. He commended the City for stepping up with others to pursue the Eastgate project. He acknowledged that the issue is controversial and difficult. He said the Eastgate location is not in anyone's backyard, and transit will help provide access to jobs. The nearby college provides opportunities for education. He thanked the Council for considering the shelter and noted that he volunteers at the current shelter.

3/20/2017

Matt Dykstra said he recently met with his neighbors who live in Harmony at Madrona Park. Residents are in favor of helping the homeless but are opposed to placing a low barrier shelter in the Eastgate residential area. He expressed concern about exposing residents and children to unsafe elements. He said the owners of the Harmony's 116 units voted unanimously to ask the City to take the time to evaluate the best location for the shelter.

Terry Lemke spoke in support of the Eastgate homeless men's shelter and congratulated the City Council for being proactive on the issue of homelessness. He volunteers with Congregations for the Homeless (CFH), which does a good job of screening its residents. He said he is not aware of any security issues at any of the churches involved with CFH in helping the homeless. He said helping others is the right thing to do.

Jim Young said he previously served on the Bellevue Transportation Commission and as a member and Board Chair for Congregations for the Homeless. He said Imagine Housing and CFH are experts in dealing with homelessness on the Eastside. He encouraged the City to move forward with the process of finding an appropriate location. He said there needs to be a place for homeless men to be helped.

David Bowling spoke in support of the Eastgate homeless shelter. He thanked the Council for working to determine the best place to site the shelter. He said shelters are a place for men to begin transitioning out of homelessness. Mr. Bowling said he cares about the safety of this community and helping those in need. He thanked everyone in the community for their input and research.

Oral Communications Minutes Cont.

Karen Morris said she has been involved in advocating for homeless services before the state legislature. She said she has not seen signs of the regional cooperation that is often cited. She would like more information on the extent of regional cooperation and what it entails. On the local level, she said public meetings were held too early in the process when little information was presented or made available. She noted that the statistics presented related to Congregations for the Homeless were for a different program than the one proposed for Bellevue. She requested that the correct information be made available to the public, and she hopes it will be included in the upcoming report. Noting her background in statistics, she observed that the public safety statistics provided have been too general. Ms. Morris said she has lived near a homeless encampment numerous times. She said volunteers at the shelter do not see the daily behavior and impacts in the adjacent neighborhood.

Linda Nohavec referred to the Eastgate Land Use Code Amendment and the land use classification matrix that outlines the new residential districts. She said Items 13 and 15 list hotels, motels and transient lodging as a permitted use in the OLB (Office-Limited Business) zoning. She observed that the public is not aware that the City has defined homeless shelters to fall within that category. Ms. Nohavec opined that the City has never adopted standards or a definition for “shelter” or “homeless shelter.” She said the terms are defined in Seattle’s code. She expressed concern that shelters will be permitted without a public process. She asserted that City staff has made mistakes in other zoning situations. She noted a Police Department internal memo dated 3/2/2016 that references the men’s low barrier shelter. She said the memo contradicts much of the information conveyed by Police during the public meeting.