

**Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing
Public Outreach
Compilation of Written Comments
August 2, 2016 - November 16, 2016**

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 PI 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 to 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.

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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 formerly 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 policies 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 feedback 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 Tye 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 a 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 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 proving 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 Boloque 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 its 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 Spirtridge neighborhood of Bellevue and my children attend Spirtridge 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 formally 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
- Tyee 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)

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?

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

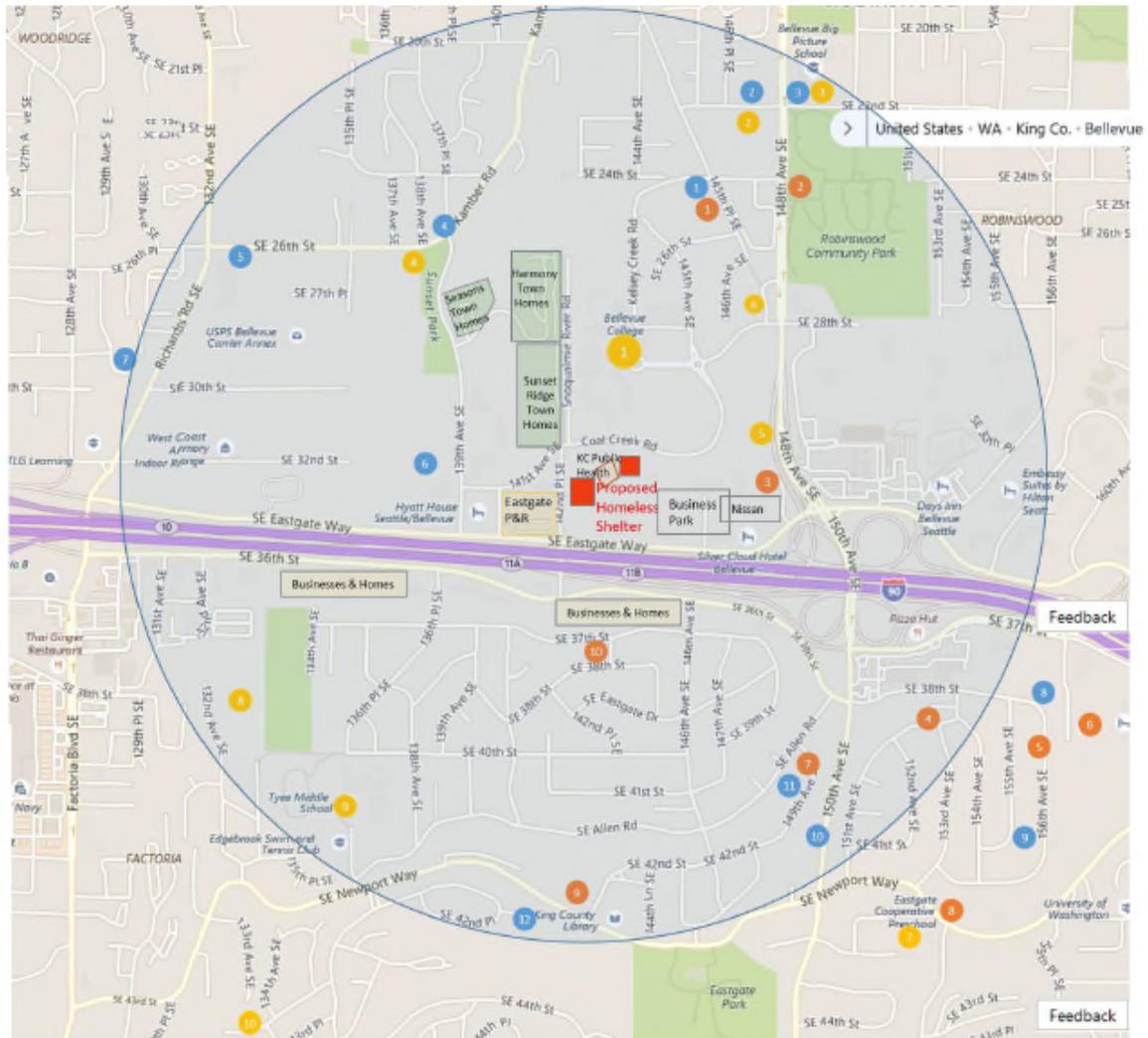
Bellevue, WA 98005

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. Tyee Middle School (Grades: 6-8)
10. Learning Specialists (Tutoring)

Preschools/Early Learning orange dots

1. Bellevue College Early Learning Center
2. Kid Magic Preshool/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 Huentzman 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

DRAFT

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.

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11/11/2016

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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

11/11/16

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

11/11/2016

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.

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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:

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

I also recommend the following:

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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

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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

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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

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Julie Schoenfeld

11/11/2016

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Jane Isenberg

11/11/2016

Support Homeless Shelter

Yes!

Barbara Schatz

11/11/2016

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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

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Laurie Cohen

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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

11/12/16

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

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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 permanent 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

11/13/2016

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.

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

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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

11/15/2016

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