

Archived: Monday, August 10, 2020 9:58:32 AM

From: [webmaster@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:webmaster@shorelinewa.gov)

Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2020 10:36:37 PM

To: [agenda comments](#); [Mark Apolar](#)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Comments

Sensitivity: Normal

A new entry to a form/survey has been submitted.

**Form Name:** Comment on Agenda Items  
**Date & Time:** 08/09/2020 10:36 pm  
**Response #:** 600  
**Submitter ID:** 38142  
**IP address:** 73.221.176.231  
**Time to complete:** 25 min. , 47 sec.

#### Survey Details: Answers Only

##### Page 1

1. Gabe
2. Shoreline
3. (o) Richmond Highlands
4. Not answered
5. 08/10/2020
6. Discussion on City Council Goal No. 5, Action Step No. 7 - Siting a Shelter/Navigation Center in North King County to Serve Homeless Single Adults
7. Dear Shoreline Councilmembers,

It has come to my attention via the local media [1] and my neighbors that you will be making a decision on rezoning 16357 Aurora Ave N to allow 24/7 homeless shelter (navigation center). I find it interesting that such an important decision that will affect the culture, safety, character, and value of the neighboring properties was not announced by the Shoreline City Council (SCC) directly to the neighbors and in advance of this meeting. I live less than 200 yards from the proposed shelter and have not heard from any of you. I would like answers to the following questions before a decision is made, I think it is the least this council can do for their tax-paying, law abiding constituents.

1. The SCC has a tradition of consulting the public when decisions that impact neighborhoods are made. Recent examples include the pool, the 175th corridor, and a survey that discussed sidewalks and improvements to the city parks. Why is the homeless shelter (navigation center) not being discussed more openly? Why were the neighbors not consulted or polled before this meeting? Why didn't you come talk to us? How should the neighbors interpret the rush by the SCC to approve this?
2. Homeless shelters bring crime and problems to areas that did not have them before (e.g. Spokane [2], Vancouver BC [3]). How can the SCC guarantee the safety of the neighbors? After all, you are concentrating at least 60 homeless persons in an area they do not already frequent. Wouldn't you be bringing issues from elsewhere into our community? Will the SCC pay for stolen or vandalized items? How about the known problem of homeless people sleeping in tents near navigation centers [4]? Do you have a plan for this?
3. The study by the University of Pennsylvania [3] found that these adverse effects can be felt in a radius of 400 m (437 yards). Within this radius there is a licensed childcare facility, Seattle Select Baseball, and Richmond Highlands Park. These are places frequented by children and teenagers that have the right to feel safe and enjoy their neighborhood. According to a Seattle Navigation Center [5] the staff is responsible for "discouraging loitering by clients", this is an admission and a foresight in things to come. Have you evaluated the impact this will have on the youth? What plan do you have to guarantee the safety and ability to recreate to our children? Shorecrest High School is a mere 450 yards from the proposed shelter. Have they been informed and consulted about this decision?
4. Houses lose about 25% of their value when a homeless shelter is developed nearby [6]. For many of us middle income, hard working neighbors this represent our life savings. Have you considered how this will affect the neighboring homeowners? By approving this I will go from making progress on my loan and starting to see retirement as a possibility due to my hard work (50+ hours a week) to being underwater in my loan. Can I expect at least one member of the SCC to knock on my door and explain to me why my life savings will be taken away? Would the SCC consider buying a piece of land in The Highlands or more affluent areas in Shoreline for developing a homeless shelter? Or this burden will not be equally distributed?

I am sure many other neighbors share these same questions. I hope we can get honest answers before a decision is made.

[1] <https://www.shorelinearenews.com/2020/08/shoreline-council-to-consider-new-60.html>

[2] <https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2018/aug/31/despite-exaggerations-crime-is-higher-near-downtown/>

[3] <https://crim.sas.upenn.edu/working-papers/effect-emergency-winter-homeless-shelters-property-crime>

[4] <https://komonews.com/news/project-seattle/navigation-center-clients-sleeping-in-tents-right-outside-center>

[5] <https://www.desc.org/what-we-do/survival-services/navigation-center/>

[6] <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/25/nyregion/nyc-homeless-shelters-property-values.html>

8. (o) Oppose

Thank you,

City of Shoreline

---

This is an automated message generated by the Vision Content Management System™. Please do not reply directly to this email.