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Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 9:08:08 PM

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

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Comments

Response requested: Yes

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

Form Name: Comment on Agenda Items
Date & Time: 08/16/2020 9:08 pm
Response #: 635
Submitter ID: 38307
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Time to complete: 6 min. , 20 sec.

Survey Details: Answers Only

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1. Margaret Willson
2. Shoreline
3. (o) Richmond Beach
4. maggienum@yahoo.com
5. 08/17/2020
6. 9(a)
7. Dear Shoreline City Council,

I am writing about the low barrier Navigation Center being proposed for the former site of Arden Rehab on Aurora Avenue. I read the "Shoreline Area News" notes from your August 10 meeting, and I saw that many of you have embraced a "Housing First" approach to addressing homelessness. I've always been skeptical of the Housing First philosophy, because homelessness, rather than being a person's primarily problem, is usually a symptom of a deeper problem or problems.

Fortuitously, I just this past week learned of a brand new report on Housing First by Seattle's own Christopher Rufo, who is a Visiting Fellow for Domestic Policy Studies at the Heritage Foundation. The report presents abundant evidence that Housing First works pretty well at keeping a roof over people's heads, but not so well at healing them and helping them turn their lives around. What does work to actually help people is "Treatment First".

In addition, Housing First facilities cause significant problems for the neighborhoods where they are placed. This paragraph was particularly disturbing:

"On Los Angeles' Skid Row and in San Francisco's Tenderloin district, the conditions surrounding many Housing First facilities are reminiscent of the Third World. There are tents on the sidewalks and open-air drug markets on the street corners. Many Housing First residents spend their days on the streets to be 'closer to the action,' then cycle back to their Housing First units when they have finished a cycle of drug taking. One HUD report found that 41 percent of Housing First residents in the study disappeared for weeks or months at a time, choosing to live on the streets despite having access to secure housing. Tragically, Housing First is often little more than homelessness within a residential setting-it does nothing to reduce the human pathologies; it merely contains them temporarily within four walls."

Here is a link to the report:

https://www.heritage.org/housing/report/the-housing-first-approach-has-failed-time-reform-federal-policy-and-make-it-work?utm_source=Main&utm_campaign=006203f0a1-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_08_04_10_13&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8795fe79fb-006203f0a1-169158578&mc_cid=006203f0a1&mc_eid=5aa7887f3d

I urge you to read this important report before endangering our Richmond Highlands neighbors with this misguided project. I would also urge you to consider exploring the possibility of using this opportunity to develop a Treatment First facility in Shoreline.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Margaret Willson

8. (o) Oppose

Thank you,

City of Shoreline

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