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From: [Nancy Morris](#)

Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 3:44:01 PM

To: [City Council](#); council@kingcounty.gov; rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov; [Nora Gierloff](#)

Cc: [Debbie Tarry](#); [John Norris](#); DCHS@kingcounty.gov

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Continued concerns for the enhanced low barrier shelter at N 165th/Aurora and R48 zoning regulations

Importance: High

Sensitivity: Normal

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Attention Shoreline City Council, King County Council, Shoreline Planning Manager, City Managers:

It is disconcerting to watch a number of the Shoreline City Councilmembers (excluding those who already oppose the low barrier enhanced shelter) and King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski push through the proposal for a low barrier enhanced shelter without due process regarding protective zoning regulations already in place that prohibits this type of low barrier shelter in Shoreline. Now you are studying how to remove the protective zoning. This very rushed action is a prescription for serious repercussions to not only having a successful program that helps the homeless, but will more than likely create a serious burden for the nearby neighborhood residents, schools, along with harming a 30 year old daycare business right next door to the proposed N.165th/Aurora site.

A homeless shelter can be a well-intentioned project. However it still needs to be instituted with foresight and necessary knowledge so the homeless shelter will help heal the homeless people and not create serious problems for the nearby neighborhood. Due to the break neck speed used, most of the city council and King County council hadn't even considered how the lack of a networked referral system for this type of low barrier shelter could cause potential tragedy to even the homeless people coming to the shelter and possible havoc to the nearby neighborhood if there were no shelter spaces available after a homeless person is dropped off by a first responder -- NOT until a former shelter manager pointed it out to you.

It is also disconcerting that positive shelter experiences used by previous speakers last week on the October 5 public comment referenced the church hosted tent encampments where structured rules are in place. The rules in place there are stricter than the rules outlined for the proposed low barrier shelter at 165th/Aurora. It is not acceptable to use these types of church shelter situations as a positive comparison to what should happen at the proposed low barrier shelter. Further there are not that many residents utilizing the facilities at the church locations that are currently planned for the proposed shelter at 165th/Aurora, which could be somewhere at 60 to even great amount of individuals.

This incredible haste to put in place a low barrier shelter can backfire as you rush to acquire a major grant from the Dept. of Commerce. Questions needing quantifiable answers and data from the city, regarding possible consequences from spillover by the proposed shelter into the neighborhood, still need to be addressed and were not answered in the followup Q&A from the September 22, 2020 community meeting. So, I implore you to do more research, speak to more shelter managers, and ask advice; either make this a shelter that has stricter oversight and required programs in place to help heal the homeless people when required, or place this type of shelter in another location away from a residential area. And again most people supporting this low barrier shelter do not live in the neighborhood where it will be located, nor do any of the City of Shoreline Councilmembers nor the King County Councilmembers. Nor have they directly spoken to those people who lived in homes located nearby low barrier shelters in Seattle or other cities and reported serious problems that affected their daily lives.

Most people I have talked to want homeless shelters to succeed and make a difference to help homeless people get better and move on in their lives. I know I do. However this site still does not seem to be a good choice given the lack of thoughtful consideration by the majority of Shoreline City Council and King County Council, and the city managers regarding the spillover effects into the neighborhood and nearby community. I still also see a lack of oversight for the increased funding of first responder services that may be required due to a 60 person low barrier shelter at N. 165th/Aurora. If you vote this shelter through and it does not work out because of problems already described by others, who will be held accountable and what will you do? Can you still consider other homeless shelter models and/or other locations at this time?

Regards,

Nancy Morris

