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Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 7:01:13 PM

To: [agenda comments](#)

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: 10/12/2020 7:01 pm
Response #: 787
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Time to complete: 1 min. , 38 sec.

Survey Details: Answers Only

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1. KELLY DAHLMAN-OETH
2. KIRKLAND
3. (o) Not Applicable
4. pastorkel@gmail.com
5. 10/12/2020
6. Zoning for Enhanced Shelter
7. I have read and listened to nearly all the comments from neighbors and others. Many of those opposing the shelter are concerned about safety: their own safety, safety of children, and general safety of the community. Many have been concerned about sheltering sex offenders. According to the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network the statistics of perpetrators of sexual crimes against minors:
59% were acquaintances
34% were family members
7% were strangers to the victim

Statistically, our children face greater dangers from members of their own family and trusted members of the community. I can tell you that in the 19 months that we operated our overnight shelter in Shoreline, we encountered one registered sex offender, who we could not house because children were present in the building and on the grounds. There have also been concerns about drug users and associated dangers. We certainly know that leaving either group of people where they currently are on the street will not result in more safety. Fear is a powerful motivator. We need only look at how it has been used to influence national policy and elections at all levels, as well as the sharp increase in the number of hate crimes in our country in the last three years. Fear of others is driven by what we don't know. If we do not relationships with people from another country, or those who do not look like us, or in this case, people who do not behave in ways that we understand or even approve of. The LGBTQ community has long suffered hatred and rejection based on people's fear and lack of relationships. My children have been raised around people who are homeless. They have friends who have been and currently are homeless. They have grown up with our family welcoming people into our home. Last year, my 16 year old spent time interviewing and taking photographs of a few of our shelter guests, all homeless and all struggling with substance use disorder. Because of those relationships, when they encounter people who are homeless or dealing with substance use disorder, they are able to see them as people. If fear comes up for them, they recognize for what it is: uncertainty about someone that they have not met. When I asked my daughter about her experiences : she understood that people who with mental illness or using substances may be unpredictable, but because she has never been threatened or in danger, she knows. She said, "I'm not usually afraid. I really just get angry with the system that caused and continues to allow them to have to live that way." One thing is certain, neither our neighbors who are homeless nor our neighbors who are housed are safer when people are left to survive on the street.

Pastor Kelly Dahlman-Oeth
Ronald United Methodist Church
8. (o) Support

Thank you,
City of Shoreline

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