

From: [Barbara Twaddell](#)

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 3:49:34 PM

To: [City Council](#)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please vote no on low barrier shelter

Sensitivity: Normal

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Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing to encourage you to vote against the proposed low barrier shelter. I wanted to call you all, but then felt my words might be better heard via the written word. You may have seen and heard my comments during the last several meetings. Someone mentioned the council was tallying up the pro and con letters received. I hope that isn't true. I felt there was undue pressure on the congregants from one church by their pastor to write letters supporting the shelter. I have since heard the pastor may not have had the correct information about this shelter. It is worrisome. I know you are also probably aware of the petition signed by nearly a thousand citizens who oppose the shelter.

Why am I against this shelter you might wonder. I live no where near it, but my family has had much experience with drug addiction. My late husband, Keith was a native American enrolled in the Lax Kw'alaams band of the Tsimshian Nation out of the Port Simpson area of British Columbia. My daughters are also enrolled members. His family was ravaged by drug and alcohol addiction. His mother was an alcoholic and his father was a heroin addict and drug dealer. His father ended up in prison and the witness protection program when he testified against the notorious Palmer brothers in Vancouver. Luckily Keith had a grandmother who saved him. She would not allow him to even visit the tribal lands due to the state of the tribal addictions back then. Later he lived in the Bay Area in the late 60's and 70's. He was friends with many of the musicians who would later die of drug overdoses. He had his encounters with addiction too, but came out alive with very strong opinions about drugs and addiction. He tried to help his mother, finding her places to live, etc., but the more he helped, the worse she got. He eventually realized that enabling drove her to deeper addiction. She did finally hit rock bottom, then recovered and found peace and sobriety.

My background is as a wife, mother, grandmother, and healthcare worker. I do not believe this shelter will help addicts. I believe it will harm them. There is absolutely nothing to encourage the addicts to stop using. They will continue, because they have to, and with their physical needs met, they will have more money to buy and consume more drugs. Some will die, some will prey on the neighborhood, and it will be our fault. I do not believe the hype of the "Housing First" propaganda. I have seen no real evidence that it helps drug addicts. No one has been able to provide even one example of a similar shelter that does not negatively impact the surrounding neighborhood. I am suspicious of groups that will get large amounts of money to run these facilities, all the while pushing to get them approved, even by questionable zoning changes. Not unlike the military industrial complex and its shadowy support of war and war \$\$\$, the homeless industrial complex encourages more of these shelters and facilities. Why has the homeless problem grown? IMHO, it is lack of drug law enforcement not the so-called income disparity or high housing costs.

Sorry this is so long. I am hoping you all continue to be open to the possibility that this shelter, at this location, run by this group, might not be a good idea. Thank you for your time and call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Barbara Twaddell
Shoreline, Richmond Beach
206-972-3787

Sent from my iPhone