

**From:** [Chris Chalcraft](#)

**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2020 6:28:22 PM

**To:** [City Council](#)

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Enhanced Navigation Shelter at 165th

**Response requested:** Yes

**Sensitivity:** Normal

**Archived:** Tuesday, October 20, 2020 12:00:58 PM

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Shoreline City Council members,

I am writing on behalf of my family and neighbors, all of whom agree the current low-barrier shelter plan from King County is a dangerously bad idea, for everyone involved. We are concerned our response to the city survey is being misunderstood to support this plan. The low barrier approach has failed miserably everywhere it has been tried. For the poor souls who are trapped by addiction and/or mental illness we have great sympathy, but we believe structure, rules and enforcement are vital tools to break the self destructive cycle of these problems. By removing rules, we surrender our best chance of making a positive change. The longer a person is enabled to continue living a damaging lifestyle like this the more entrenched the demons become. More time for the addiction to get stronger and more damage to the body, minds, as well as positive family and social connections and support that might still be salvageable. Also more time for bad things to happen. Accidents illness abuse and employability for them, and accidents, crime and tragedy in the surrounding neighborhood. With up to sixty beds at the facility we are worried this is unmanageable and creates an environment where residents are exposed to the very temptations that threaten their recovery. It also tests the capacity of staff, law enforcement and emergency services.

The lack of criminal background checks and enforcement of rules against intoxication and drug use is a great concern. The thought of vulnerable women and men exposed to the risk of dangerous residents with no protection of a locking door is distressing. The proximity to daycare center, parks and businesses such as the ABC driving school where fifteen and sixteen year old girls and boys wait for parents to pick them up. Shorewood High School and the community center where childrens activities occur. With sex offenders that may also be experiencing drug and mental health problems this is a recipe for disaster. Children and neighbors safety and property at risk and potential liability issues for the city.

My wife and I moved here twenty years ago for safety and schools. We have three children that go to school, play, play sports and work all nearby. Just two years ago a wonderful bright young woman who was my wife's close cousin fell prey to addiction in Seattle. She was a gifted teacher with a masters degree and hid her problems until too late. We learned that she was on a fast track to devastation and would have lost everything and become homeless if the drugs did not kill her as they did at the age of 36. It is clear that without rules or enforced treatment she never could have saved herself and neither could we at that point. We welcome good ideas and help for the homeless. Please do not move forward with the low-barrier approach. We strongly oppose it.

Thank you for your time.  
Chris Chalcraft

Richmond Highlands neighborhood resident