

Archived: Thursday, October 15, 2020 4:16:18 PM

From: [Ed J.](#)

Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 11:38:59 AM

To: [City Council](#)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bellingham Base Camp Shelter Article

Response requested: No

Sensitivity: Normal

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<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/bellingham-hopes-this-could-help-the-homeless-in-vehicles-as-it-tightens-shelter-security/ar-BB19xSqh>

Ed Jirsa here, the Bellingham Firefighter living near the proposed Lake City Partners Shelter. The above link is to the article I referred to in my public comments. To be clear, both businesses surrounding Base Camp AND the Lighthouse Mission, (who operates the shelter, and has for the past four years), requested this protection zone. Council unanimously approved it.

This is one of my main reasons for my opposition to the location of the shelter in Shoreline. These shelters attract a population of people it can't or won't help. This includes those who are not willing to follow rules, individuals who are violent, drug dealers, criminals who prey on those staying at the shelter, and anyone who came to the area hoping to get in...only to find it full.

The staff at Base Camp does not "patrol the nearby area", as a representative from Lake City Partners stated in the info meeting that they would. Unless you get a written agreement from them that they will keep this undesired population from constantly hanging out at Richmond Highlands Park, that is where they will go. Despite what some of you on Council have said about "homeless people not wanting to migrate to a different area", it is simply not true. Bellingham has drawn in homeless from all over the region, seeking out the shelter here. And they will do the same in Shoreline.

I CAN support the proposed shelter at Oaks if you do it correctly. We need a written agreement with Lake City Partners that they will cease operations if we see the same negative impact to Richmond Highlands Park and the surrounding area as we have seen in Bellingham. If you decide to proceed without any such provision, I will continue to actively oppose the shelter.

I would be happy to have a conversation with any of you to address my concerns. Please feel free to call me. My cell is 206-200-1945

Thank you.

-Ed Jirsa