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From: kitsbeach@yahoo.com

Sent: Friday, October 23, 2020 12:56:10 PM

To: [City Council](#)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Enhanced Shelter at the Oakes facility

Sensitivity: Normal

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Dear Council Members, especially Keith McGlashan and Betsy Robertson,

I am against the Enhanced Homeless Shelter, and encourage you to vote against it. Especially in light of Monday's homicide of the 25-year-old woman near Aurora, not far from the Safeway store. . . .and the murder of the 7-11 store clerk just north of us in Edmonds, also on Aurora.

We have been for many decades a middle-class oasis between the violence of Seattle and Everett where drug gangs operate with frightening openness – even before the “defund the police nonsense,” the Autonomous Zone, and other situations suggesting that many elected leaders are operating within a tragic hallucination about reality.

A different framework. But - - - sometimes when decisions are difficult, and especially when experts on an important subject disagree, it is good to consider a risk management approach.

During the September 16th Zoom meeting with community leaders, the Lake City Partners folks admitted that they are lucky to get 20% of their 'clients' into long-term housing – and that they have never operated a low barrier facility. Surely their success rate would be far lower at the Oakes facility. So suppose it is 10%, meaning that our entire community will face enormous risks, so that 6 people per year can transition to 'permanent' housing. These will likely be the ones without drug addictions, severe mental illness, or extensive criminal records. Would it not be easier to quickly find these individuals, and help them transition by putting them temporarily in an ADU, perhaps in the backyards of the Council members who favor this project? The other homeless at Oakes will not transition, as LCP admits, so what then? Will they be at Oakes for 9 months – or indeed 9 years? This is a lousy burden for our community, considering that we already have:

[1] Ronald Commons

[2] the forthcoming 198th facility – *for 100 mentally ill, and homeless folks* [!]

[3] the methadone treatment facility, just north of the proposed Oakes facility

[4] the King County Transfer Station

[5] the Metro Bus Barn

[6] . . . prostitutes next door just across the Seattle city line, which increasingly makes that area of Aurora disgusting, partly because it suggests pimps, drug abuse by the women, fights with their customers and many other activities we do not want in our neighborhood. Especially since we paid a huge price in time, effort, and money to now have the finest stretch of Aurora, from Canada to Olympia, or wherever it ends down there.

A better solution is to screen the homeless for how likely they are to benefit from our help – or indeed for which ones are even willing to accept serious help, other than a shelter bed, since as we know many do not want to abandon their drug addictions or 'carefree' lifestyle. Others are so mentally ill they can be dangerous to themselves or others.

We should indeed help the helpable, and the others should be served in a much wider regional effort, in a low-cost environment that would enable us to treat more folks at lower cost. This would logically involve a macro regional cooperation, and serious funding, with Yakima or other less expensive places, and where the lack of employment and other close-by amenities would not be important, since for this category of folks their needs are much more limited.

If our police find homeless folks here violating our laws about sleeping in parks or whatever, they could be screened for “helpability” – perhaps on a very objective basis involving indices of addiction, criminality and mental illness, and the ones who have reasonable prospects of transitioning successfully go to 198th, or an ADU + social worker, and the others go to a 'regional support facility' in a very low-cost area where they receive very serious support for addictions, mental health and shifting to a non-crime lifestyle.

Golden Goose aspect. Also there is a risk here to the goose that lays golden eggs. If our community is now stable enough to provide a solid base for kids to grow up safely and get a decent education at Shorewood and Shorecrest, and proceed to become productive citizens, dare we risk disturbing this delicate configuration, when so many other environments can no longer provide such a base for the survival of our society? Certainly not in many parts of Seattle, let alone Tacoma and . . .Portland. Indeed the Council has already agreed to dramatically change Shoreline by authorizing the construction of several thousand apartment units over the coming years, and of course we have the forthcoming impact of the Light Rail stations. All this will produce a less stable, and less family-oriented, configuration than what we have enjoyed here in the past. With a predictable tilt away from the quite productive results we as a community have previously generated.

Please vote “no” on the enhanced shelter.

Sincerely,

Tom Smith PhD, (former) CPA

Shoreline homeowner since 1979

“local references”

[1] 25-year old woman stabbed to death

[Sheriff's detectives are investigating the killing of a 25-year-old woman in Shoreline](#)



Sheriff's detectives are investigating the killing of a 25-year-old woma...

Azhane Mitchell, 25, died from multiple stab wounds Monday night in Shoreline and the King County Medical Examin...

[2] 137th and Aurora. shooting in the leg. Gang unit investigating; <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/man-suffers-life-threatening-injuries-in-shooting-near-bitter-lake/>

[3] Edmonds 7-11 murder . . . suspect has 10 felony convictions [!]. [2 arrests in deadly shooting of Edmonds 7-Eleven clerk](#)



2 arrests in deadly shooting of Edmonds 7-Eleven clerk

Police have taken two people into custody for their suspected involvement in the fatal shooting of an Edmonds 7-...