

Craig, Sondra

From: Elsen, Nikki
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW: Tellurian - I oppose

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Marcia Allen** <marcia@scientistsolutions.com>

Date: Wed, Oct 11, 2023 at 9:04 PM

Subject: Tellurian - I oppose

To: <dickinson@cityoflacrosse.org>, <goggine@cityoflacrosse.org>, <janssenb@cityoflacrosse.org>, <sleznikowl@cityoflacrosse.org>, <hameisterj@cityoflacrosse.org>, <kahlowc@cityoflacrosse.org>, <kielm@cityoflacrosse.org>, <mindelm@cityoflacrosse.org>, <woodardc@cityoflacrosse.org>, <schwarzr@cityoflacrosse.org>, <trostj@cityoflacrosse.org>, <happeld@cityoflacrosse.org>, <neumannm@cityoflacrosse.org>

Dear Council Members Dickinson, Janssen, Goggin, Sleznikow, Hameister, Kahlow, Woodard, Mindel, Kiel, Schwarz, Trost, Happel and Neumann,

Thank you for your service. I'm writing today to share my opinion on the Tellurian Center.

I oppose this Neighborhood Addiction / Mental Health Inpatient Center moving in near me and any other residential neighborhood. I'm a concerned neighbor who has deep compassion for those battling addiction and mental health. Very close to my home I witness drug dealing and all that goes with it. One of my neighbors has struggled for years with addiction and mental health. When he is sober, there's a regular group of people coming and going and just hanging out in front of his house to entice him back into drugs. When he is using it is the same thing. He cannot get away from it. The drugs are as dangerous as it gets, fentanyl, heroine, etc. In the past 12 months he's been revived 3 times with narcan.

Having been a former crisis counselor and social worker for the county I support wholeheartedly any new service to help this population. However, I along with my neighbors feel there are many commercial buildings available and empty in La Crosse that should be considered. Why haven't they been considered? The other Tellurian facility is located on Mormon Coulee Road, a location not nearly as residential as my neighborhood.

Why were neighbors only notified of this Tellurian Center, days ago. Why the late notice and why just to neighbors within 200 feet of the center?

At the City Hall Council Meetings last week neighbors spoke out opposing the center's location in our residential neighborhood. We all deeply agree more support is needed but feel our concerns aren't being heard.

It seems the Council Members have almost closed the door on us. I almost felt our concerns were falling on ears that had already made up their minds.

Many neighbors would love to have a *stay* or a *suspension* until more information is gathered. Is there any way we can make this happen?

Questions gone unanswered:

1. How many police reports have there been at the Tellurian facility on Mormon Coulee Road in the past year? The representative of Tellurian could not answer the question. I run 2 businesses. I have data on everything that goes on. How could they not have the answer? The public is entitled to know. A welfare check to me means someone high on drugs outside in the car. The police or paramedics usually arrive shortly after someone has called with a "welfare check."
2. The residents of the mental health and addiction center are not allowed to leave yet the building is going to be unlocked. We understand there will be no security at the facility. If someone chooses to walk out the door, meets someone to engage in drug use they won't be allowed back in. WHY NOT? Where will they go? It will then be up to the residents of the neighborhood to take on solving the problem.
3. It is unclear whether this will be a revolving door 24 hour facility or multi day facility. And urinalysis will be done, but for what? This is unclear.
4. Transportation. We understand clients will be transported there. It's not clear when they leave, who will take care of them/transport them/support them.
5. Who exactly are the clients coming and what stage are they in in their recovery?
6. Will there be adequate staffing? *Glassdoor* reviews online by former staff uncover an issue of understaffing at other locations.
7. The facility is getting a \$5 million dollar grant. Who is giving the grant and what will it pay for? From research, the Tellurian Organization appears to accept Medicare, Medi-Cal and other types of Pay. \$5 million could have hired so many social workers! When I was a case manager here, there was not a homelessness crisis and mental health and addiction sufferers had so much more support. This grant could have paid for support to prevent people from getting to the crisis stage.

Concerned neighbors are not concerned about what will go on within the four walls of the center. We believe the clients will be cared for and supported. It's the type of people that could be attracted to hang out in the back alley and neighborhood that most concerns us and the fact the doors are unlocked. I'm sure residents will have their cell phones...who will they be engaging with? Most likely they will stay connected to the people that were involved in them going into crisis. Please vote against the treatment center being placed in our neighborhood and any other residential area in La Crosse.

Sincerely,

Marcia Allen, M.S.

Founder and COO

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