

Craig, Sondra

From: Elsen, Nikki
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 10:01 AM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW: Maple Grove Motel

-----Original Message-----

From: Danielle Fry <dmfry8690@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 9:45 PM
To: ZZ Council Members <ZZCouncilMembers@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Maple Grove Motel

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Good evening. I am writing this email in regards to the decision that was made last night to move the homeless population to the Maple Grove Motel. I think this is an absolutely horrible decision. I am extremely disappointed in how the city handled this situation. We found out yesterday morning about this topic and there was already a decision made on it last night. I made sure to attend the meeting and left heartbroken. I have lived near Kwik Trip on Mormon Coulee for over 20 years. It's an absolutely wonderful area. I have 3 young children. We often use the bike trail and parks that are right next to this motel. I will no longer feel safe doing so. My child also attends Southern Bluffs Elementary School as do many children in my neighborhood. The only way to walk or bike to school would be to go past this new location. Many parents in the neighborhood don't know what they will do now because they do not feel safe having their child go past that area. This decision was made with complete disregard to all the families in the area. Southern Bluffs often does walk to school events where we all meet at Fiesta Mexicana and walk to school as a group. No parent is going to want to do this anymore. Did you contact the school district before making this decision? Did you talk to parents who's children are going to passing this area daily? Do you realize the number of kids that will be driving, walking, and biking past this location every day to school and to after school events. Houska Park was away from young children and families and now you are putting our children in harms way. You are now placing these people in the middle of our neighborhood. I fully support helping our homeless population and connecting them with the resources they need. I've helped out at The Place of Grace, Catholic Charities, and my family has donated items to the homeless population when they were at Houska Park. I have also taken classes on Servant leadership at Viterbo University. I understand these people need our help but this is not the appropriate location to house them. At the meeting last night it was talked about how they currently receive over 100 police calls a month. How would you feel if this was happening in your neighborhood and you were home alone with three very young children. This decision makes me sick to my stomach. My husband works for BNSF Railway and is out of town most days and nights. We will no longer feel safe at home. At the meeting last night, it was also discussed that many people in this population suffer from mental illness. I don't think having a shelter right next to the railroad tracks is a smart idea. My husband has worked on the railroad for over ten years and there has been far too many deaths-most from people with mental illnesses or drug addictions. It's absolutely heartbreaking not only for the victim but the crew on that locomotive that has to live with that for the rest of their lives. I really hope you reconsider your decision and choose to look for a more suitable location. You are endangering the lives of our young children. We will no longer be able to let our young children play outside worry free. I'm so hurt that a community I've lived in my entire life could make such a rash decision without listening to the concerns of the people it will directly effect. As I stated before, I did attend the meeting last night and the sadness in the audiences eyes was evident. Please. I'm sincerely asking you to not go through wish this purchase. You said last night that this is the only option. I don't believe that to be true. I think our community can come up with a better alternative that will benefit both parties. I would greatly appreciate an email back. Please. Please. Think about our children. Many families in our school district and our neighborhood and absolute crushed by this decision. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

-Danielle

Sent from my iPhone