

**Elsen, Nikki**

---

**Subject:** FW: Matter concerning petition for Coulee Council on Addictions facility on Ferry St.

---

**From:** chad staehly [<mailto:c.staehly@comcast.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 24, 2017 11:37 PM  
**To:** Gilman, Jason; Kabat, Tim; Reinhart, Dawn  
**Cc:** ZZ Council Members; [klueth@lacrossepromise.org](mailto:klueth@lacrossepromise.org); Staehly, Michelle  
**Subject:** Matter concerning petition for Coulee Council on Addictions facility on Ferry St.

To Whom It May Concern :

My wife and I just recently purchased a residential lot from the city of La Crosse in conjunction with the La Crosse Promise program to build a new home at 507 9th St. S (the lot was combined with 509 and 511 as well). We are moving from Denver, CO to La Crosse to start a new chapter for our family. We have a four year old and a two year old (to date from what I understand they are the two youngest entrants into the Promise program). We are also part of a group that is starting a great new business in downtown La Crosse that will help further the vision of turning downtown into an exciting, dynamic, positive place to be. We have been so excited to be building a new home and living downtown and being part of the La Crosse Promise vision to revitalize this residential neighborhood and help turn things around (we believe our home and story can be a flagship for the program).

I have lived in Colorado for the past 25 years and have lived in several cities here and have seen these old downtowns revitalized, it does so much for the city and the culture of downtown in so many positive ways. I have also traveled this entire country many times over for the past 15 years and know what a special place La Crosse is and can be. We could have picked just about anywhere to move and chose La Crosse in part due to what the city and the Promise program are doing.

We just received a letter from city clerk Teri Lehrke about the petition from Coulee Council on Addictions to rezone 923 - 939 Ferry St. so that a rehab/addiction facility can be built. This facility would literally be in our backyard. We had been in contact with Kristen Lueth as well as Dawn Reinhart for the last 9 months as we looked into the La Crosse Promise Program and purchasing one of these lots from the city. Back in April we finally decided to purchase the lot on 9th St. Needless to say, we had been led to believe that we were purchasing a lot and building a home in a neighborhood that was one of only several neighborhoods that were being currently targeted both by the city and the program to be revitalized with newly built or renovated homes (not clinics or anything of that ilk).

We certainly didn't anticipate that we were building a home neighboring a facility helping recovering addicts and would have never agreed to do so, putting our children at an elevated risk playing in our backyard right where very compromised, vulnerable and unstable people are congregating and going for help. How is this helping to revitalize the neighborhood? I'm guessing even methadone might be administered to some clients at such a facility? I have worked in the music business for 15 plus years so I am certainly not naive to what addicts go through and what a risk they can be to themselves and others around them. I have much empathy for addicts and their plight to get better and believe many can do so but I have no interest in living next to that kind of facility nor does it belong in this part of the city. As you know there is a middle school only a block away as well as Viterbo College where students from age 12 and up are spending much of their time. Would you want your child living next to a facility like this or walking to school right around the corner from one? Are all the parents of children at Lincoln Middle School aware of this petition?

We are feeling so very disillusioned and deflated about what was supposed to be such a positive thing on so many fronts, never ever would we have considered building a new home next to a rehab clinic. We are ready to halt construction on our home as I know we would lose so very badly with building a home next to such a place (with the home we are building it was already not appraising at what we are putting into it due to the property location, neighborhood values, etc). I can only imagine the additional hit our property value would take if this went through not to mention the worry we would have for the safety of our children and other children in the neighborhood. In fact I'm not even sure what we would do if this went through, I can't see us living there on that lot but we are also not in a position to walk away from the hefty investment we've already made into the build. I want to do whatever I can to help rebuild this neighborhood and want to do whatever I can to stop this petition from going through.

This is not going to help revitalize this neighborhood (in fact it will do just the opposite and turn others away from wanting to invest in the neighborhood). We want to be a positive force to further the vision of the city and La Crosse Promise. My family and I are ready to be a positive voice and example for the city and the La Crosse Promise program. I hope that you will all back us up and hold up your end of the deal. We have already been such advocates for everything that is going on, for the program and what this city is doing. We have already literally convinced others to move there and be part of it too.

We hope our new adopted hometown will keep its' promise to us in what we signed up for which was to be part of the solution and join others in rebuilding this downtown neighborhood into something positive and as a flagship for more of this to happen in the city. We believe in La Crosse and want to help make it a city that the entire country looks at as a beacon for positive change. What else can we do to stop this from happening and how would you feel if you were in our shoes?

Respectfully,  
Chad, Michelle, Booker and Ethan Staehly

—  
Chad Staehly  
Gold Mountain Entertainment  
Nashville, TN • Denver, CO  
P: 970-231-2603  
F: 615.255.9001