

Craig, Sondra

From: Elsen, Nikki
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2023 11:07 AM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW: City Board Decision to Allow Tellurian Behavioral Health a Conditional Use Permit at 1720 Jackson Street

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

From: **Lori Skaer** <lskaer23@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 10:27 AM
Subject: City Board Decision to Allow Tellurian Behavioral Health a Conditional Use Permit at 1720 Jackson Street
To: <reynoldsm@cityoflacrosse.org>

Hi Mayor Reynolds,

My name is Lori Skaer-Jensen and I live at 1707 Johnson St, La Crosse. I am writing to you because of concerns I have about a vote the La Crosse Common Council will be making Thursday, October 12. I have attached the notice those of us who live within 200 feet of 1720 Jackson St. received. A group of our neighbors met with representatives of Tellurian and became concerned with their answers. 15 of us met with our aldermen to voice our concerns and the impact placing this type of short-term crisis center would have on our feeling of neighborhood and general safety. We then attended the Judiciary & Administration Committee on October 3rd where we were informed each patient would be urine tested and wanded for weapons.

According to the spokesperson from Tellurian this would be a 6 bed crisis center where clients would stay no more than 24 hours with many leaving within a few hours. They will have 7 cameras checked every 15 minutes and a staff of 5 in the day and 2 at night. If a client steps out to smoke without an attendant they would be locked out. Mobile Crisis and the police would be bringing clients in who are experiencing mental distress to the facility. They will also have their own driver. The driver will need to have a high school diploma as well as a valid driver's license.

They are trying to place the center at 1720 Jackson St. mainly because of cost (as they called it a dump) with a second argument that it would be a neighborhood feel. Given their anticipated quick turnover of clients this makes little sense to us. We have been making great strides in our neighborhood with homes being improved and families with little children moving in. My husband and I often have our grandchildren visit overnight. The addition of this type of facility with a steady flow of clients (being wanded for weapons and urine tested and the outside lit up with cameras) has our whole neighborhood very concerned. At one point it was stated that this impact should not be any different than the dentist office would have had in our neighborhood that was there previously.

We strongly feel there is a need for a destination for those in crisis, but placing one within 200 feet of families with children is an inappropriate location given how short-term the stay is for clients and the related comorbid condition of drug addiction that typically is found with people struggling to cope with mental illness.

Please consider this a call for help from our leader.

Thank you,
Lori Skaer-Jensen