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From: Jeremiah Shaver <jeremiah.d.shaver@gmail.com>
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To: ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: French Island - Norwood Inn - Homeless

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Hello,

I won't be able to attend the meeting on Thursday in regards to the sheltering of homeless at the Norwood Inn on French Island, but as an Island native who still works on FI, I must voice my opinion in full opposition to this taking place.

The City of La Crosse has already failed at least twice in this manner having used similar tactics. The northside hotel/motel that was first used to house the homeless ended up a complete disaster. Drugs, Prostitution, Theft, amongst other things all rose to the top of the problem list as result of this decision. End Result: Catastrophic Failure!

The 2nd utter failure was the Houska Park Fiasco. The aforementioned problems just moved to a new location. The cleanup of Houska when they were finally vacated was disgusting, not to mention the soil contamination. End Result: Catastrophic Failure!

What does the city think will change this 3rd time around? The answer is - it won't. The Norwood Inn will become a haven for drugs, prostitution, crime, amongst terrorizing the surrounding family neighborhoods, making the entire area unsafe! This is with a police station right across the street. We've seen it happen already at the same hotel during the I-90 project and beyond.

I think it's fitting that when you drive into La Crosse on 35 and see the "Welcome to La Crosse Native Americans playing La Crosse statue", that the homeless tents are right there along with it. Ironic honestly. The Mayor and city caused a lot of this problem, and now all you're doing is shifting the problem around to different parts of the community and that is not a viable solution.

Even IF, something like this hotel housing option were to take place, there should be requirements to stay. Community work. Applying for jobs. Drug tests. Don't adhere to any one of them and they're out. This is how you help the homeless, not by just shifting them around from place to place for them to destroy. Help build them into constructive citizens again. Until the Mayor gets truly serious about the issue, this is not the answer. This is not helping them. It will have the same result as before....Catastrophic Failure!

Thank you for your time,

Jeremiah Shaver