

From: Rachel Twite <rachelmtwite@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2024 7:51 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Concerns about Northwood Inn & Suites

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My name is Rachel Twite, and I am a resident of French Island. My husband and I purchased our house here in 2016 and have loved making French Island our home. We are raising 3 beautiful daughters, and I am a stay at home mom with my first daughter starting school at Summit Elementary this fall.

I am writing this email out of concern for my family. I think it's a terrible idea to purchase the Northwoods Inn and Suites for housing for the homeless. I understand the city of La Crosse needs to come up with a more permanent solution for the homeless and agree that we need to be helping them. I have volunteered in the past with an organization that feeds the homeless on a regular basis, and I myself have an uncle who struggles with unemployment, addictions and homelessness, so I know first hand the heartbreak for everyone involved. But I don't believe moving them onto French Island is a good idea for several reasons.

One: The people of French Island have been through a lot over the last 4 years dealing with our poisoned well water, a problem which currently doesn't have a good solution that's been communicated to us. I don't think it's fair to add this new difficulty on us before that issue is resolved.

Two: I am also concerned about the crime rate going up. As I mentioned above, I have volunteered with our homeless and have seen people in shelters with loaded guns, needles, and lots of alcohol. As a young woman who loves going for early morning runs and walks with my daughters, I would feel very unsafe with the proposed idea for French Island. The only grocery store easily accessible on French Island for a late night or early morning run for forgotten groceries or missing milk is Quinlan's, which is located very near the proposed lodgings.

Three: I would worry about my daughter's school being so close to the proposed homeless housing. I am guessing it's less than a mile away? I don't see how anyone would think this is a good idea with so many children being nearby.

Four: There is a rest stop also connected to French Island which could easily become a place where homeless people from other cities and states could be dropped off and simply walk to the proposed site.

Five: I also think it would be a disservice to the homeless as there aren't any services available on French Island...not many stores or doctors or hospitals...it really is an island.

If this proposal would go through, I would strongly consider selling our house and moving off of French Island. We love our home and friends here, and think it is an amazing community and township. I would be very disappointed. We have the opportunity to keep French Island an amazing place!

Rachel Twite

Owner/Photographer

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