

**Craig, Sondra**

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**From:** Matthew Rumde <matthewrumde@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 8, 2025 9:47 PM  
**To:** ZZ City Clerk External  
**Subject:** Written Comment for City Council and F&P 8/07

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Dear Members of the La Crosse Common Council,

I am writing to share my thoughts on File 25-0682 regarding the City's proposed leases in support of Pathway Homes.

I strongly support the intent behind this effort: to provide immediate shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness. It is encouraging to see our community partnering with organizations like Pathway Homes to help address urgent housing needs, and I commend the generous \$100,000 donation from Mayo Clinic that makes this possible.

At the same time, I have some reservations about the long-term financial implications. While I understand the project is currently designed to require no city funds, I remain skeptical that no further funding will be needed—particularly for potential repairs or damages to the leased properties, which have yet to be fully detailed. I believe it would be prudent for the Council to undertake extensive vetting of these leases, including clearer plans on how unexpected costs will be managed and who bears responsibility—ideally ensuring that all expenses remain within the scope of the \$100,000 Mayo Clinic donation without requiring further city funding.

Additionally, while emergency shelter is a critical first step, I encourage the Council and program partners to carefully consider how to address underlying root causes of homelessness—such as mental health challenges, substance use, and economic instability—to help ensure that housing remains stable in the long term.

Overall, I hope the Council will continue to move thoughtfully, balancing compassion with due diligence, so that this program can succeed sustainably long-term.

Thank you very much for your time and for your commitment to our community.

Sincerely,

