

Lehrke, Teri

From: Kabat, Tim
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 8:57 AM
To: Acklin, Tim; Lehrke, Teri
Subject: FW: Opposed to zoning for new homeless center at 508 5th Street

Catholic Charities request

Tim Kabat

Mayor
City of La Crosse
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From: Rowan-Koenen, Kathleen J <KJRowank@gundersenhealth.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 7:27 PM
To: Jay M Lokken <jay@ed3solutiongroup.com>; ken@ed3solutiongroup.com; dickr@mwfbroadcasting.com
Cc: Kabat, Tim <kabatt@cityoflacrosse.org>; Olson, Jessica <olsonje@cityoflacrosse.org>; c_kahlow@yahoo.com; lokken.courtney@gmail.com
Subject: Opposed to zoning for new homeless center at 508 5th Street

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Good evening,

We concur that the office building at 508 5th street is a less than optimal location to initiate programming for the homeless. We support the goals of the *La Crosse Collaborative To End Homelessness*. We do support finding a building that is not in a residential neighborhood. As we all recognize, this population is challenged by mental illness and addiction. The Washburn neighborhood has worked very hard to improve their property value and turn blighted areas into family homes. Families have taken a risk moving into the area, many with the assistance of La Crosse Promise grants while revitalizing the neighborhood.

I live in the Washburn/ Downtown neighborhood and have been part of the revitalization process for the last 20 years. Our neighborhood already bears a heavy burden of social programming. Ophelia's House at 127 7th street houses women who are on bond, are serving a jail sentence or enrolled in drug or alcohol programming. I am a medical volunteer at St. Clare's Mission at 910 Ferry Street who serve the poor and underinsured. The Salvation Army at 223 N 8th street does an outstanding job with the less fortunate and homeless population. Catholic Charities La Crosse Warming center is at 413 S. 3rd street provides overnight accommodations during winter for the homeless. The Franciscan Hospitality House at 114 6th street provides daytime services for the homeless. In the Washburn and Downtown neighborhood there are multiple outpatient services for drug and alcohol. There is a Behavioral health clinic at 212 11th street. I wonder how many La Crosse citizens can say they live with walking distance of so much programming for the underserved?

We have often heard the phrase "Not in my backyard" when dealing with the homeless and underserved. The Washburn/Downtown neighborhood is already saturated with programming for the homeless, mentally ill and individuals who suffer from drug and alcohol addiction. We are hopeful that there may be an alternative location that is not in a family neighborhood that is already struggling to turn around. We oppose transferring the property at 508 5th street from a residential property to commercial use.

Respectfully,

Scott and Katie (Rowan) Koenen

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