

**Lehrke, Teri**

---

**From:** Kabat, Tim  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 1:03 PM  
**To:** Acklin, Tim; Lehrke, Teri  
**Subject:** FW: Opposition to Rezoning Request

Catholic Charities

*Tim Kabat*

Mayor  
 City of La Crosse  
 400 La Crosse Street  
 La Crosse, WI 54601  
 (608) 789-7500  
[www.cityoflacrosse.org](http://www.cityoflacrosse.org)

---

**From:** CW STAELY <c.staehly@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 10:48 AM  
**To:** Kabat, Tim <kabatt@cityoflacrosse.org>  
**Cc:** Richmond, Andrea <richmonda@cityoflacrosse.org>; Neumeister, Scott <neumeisters@cityoflacrosse.org>; Janssen, Barb <janssenb@cityoflacrosse.org>; Sleznikow, Larry <sleznikowl@cityoflacrosse.org>; Weaver, Justice <weaverj@cityoflacrosse.org>; Kahlow, Chris <kahlowc@cityoflacrosse.org>; Padesky, Gary <padeskyg@cityoflacrosse.org>; Olson, Jessica <olsonje@cityoflacrosse.org>; Ostrem, Phillip A. <ostremp@cityoflacrosse.org>; Medinger, Paul <medingerp@cityoflacrosse.org>; Gaul, Martin <gaulm@cityoflacrosse.org>; Happel, Douglas <happeld@cityoflacrosse.org>; Roger Christians <kandrchristians@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Opposition to Rezoning Request

\*\*\* CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\*

Dear Mayor Kabat and City of La Crosse Councilpersons,

We hope this message finds you all well. You all might remember our family from the rezoning request a few years ago in the Washburn Neighborhood to build the new Coulee Council on Addictions' facility. We were in the process of building a new home on the other side of the alley from that proposal. We had decided to build our family home in the neighborhood because we bought in to the city's vision to rehabilitate this neighborhood. We have now lived here for almost three years, some bits of progress have been made but there's a long way to go and we see the fight being lost currently with continuing waves of crime and other issues happening because not enough stakeholders are being encouraged to get involved.

We feared that the CCA project a few years ago would be counterintuitive to inviting young families to move into the neighborhood, which as you know, the city and La Crosse Promise have been actively doing as this should be a sure fire way to rehabilitate a neighborhood by bringing in homeowners who have a real stake in the neighborhood, not college students, renters, etc. who have no ownership in

what happens here. We were concerned about what we might face in terms of some of the clientele that would be visiting the CCA. I am remiss and sad to report to all of you that our hunches were right and our family has been deeply harmed by an event that occurred last year, after the CCA had only been open for a year. A visitor at CCA was in the Washburn Community Garden (which borders our home and the CCA) after one of their visits to the facility and proceeded to masturbate in front of our two children and ultimately my wife Michelle who discovered what was happening. They all remain scarred and uneasy about this perpetrator and where we live. It turns out that this perpetrator is also part of the homeless population here in the city and has been part of it for quite some time. My kids used to love to go to Cameron Park, now we can't go near there as this person is always there. Now potentially this person will be invited back into our neighborhood to receive services from Catholic Charities. He was only given a slap on the wrist with a charge of indecent exposure, my kids continue to ask about this man and it remains in the back of their minds a year later with no signs of letting up. Cheryl Hancock and the CCA have never even as much offered an apology, in fact, we were contacted by an anonymous employee of the CCA and told that Ms. Hancock immediately sent out an email to all of her staff telling them to not talk to us. Ms. Hancock and her team instead initially denied that this perpetrator was even a client of theirs. The anonymous source told us that this was untrue and that they themselves were uneasy about this particular client visiting the facility. This person also mentioned to us how uneasy they were about the entire rezoning and the way the CCA is being run. The point of mentioning this is that Cheryl nor anyone working at the CCA has a real interest in protecting our neighborhood, they are simply not stakeholders here. They don't live in the neighborhood. In fact most of the promises they made about "being good neighbors" has been largely ignored since they moved in and there's no one to hold them to being accountable now.

We have become disillusioned in the vision that the city of La Crosse sold us. We hear this from others as well who have taken the same leap of faith as we have. You cannot try to rehabilitate a neighborhood with encouraging young families to become homeowners while at the same time continue to rezone the neighborhood away from residential for commercial and social services like this. Do we need to address and try to help our homeless population further? Of course, yes we do, and in fact my business has donated meals and monies to Catholic Charities and the warming shelter ever since we opened our doors along with other businesses that our partners are involved with. We need to be smart and strategic with how we go about this and where we locate these services. The Washburn Neighborhood already shoulders so much of this and adding more here will only stress things further and stop the positive momentum that we all want to see happen to strengthen our downtown and city. I ask you to please consider alternative locations for this service and operation and to deny this rezoning request. It's not the right place and time for this to happen.

Sincerely,

Chad, Michelle, Booker and Ethan Staehly



chad staehly  
co-founder/owner  
970.231.2603 [c]  
la crosse distilling co.  
lacrossedistilling.co