

## Elsen, Nikki

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**From:** Schnick, Andrea  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2018 5:37 PM  
**To:** Acklin, Tim; Elsen, Nikki  
**Subject:** FW: Opposition to 3120 Farnam Street home proposal

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**From:** Apple [raynekampa@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 30, 2018 4:29 PM  
**To:** Schnick, Andrea  
**Subject:** Opposition to 3120 Farnam Street home proposal

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Dear Ms. Schnick,

I am writing in response to the proposal of the home at 3120 Farnam Street being donated to the Tomah V.A. hospital. I object to this donation for many reasons. First off, this house is located in an R1 residential neighborhood, with poor walkability to any resources. The home to be donated is situated upon an embankment, raising the home above it's neighbors, and with many windows surrounding it. This element alone makes the neighbors surrounding it uncomfortable, as two of the yards adjoining it have small children that frequently play in the yards. Privacy is an issue here. If there were more of a green space surrounding the home to be donated, then perhaps it wouldn't be as much of an issue, but the houses adjoin quite cozily together.

The safety of our children is very much a concern with this development, and I feel that if ten men, who have been through war and seen and done things that we can't even imagine, and also have drug/alcohol, psychological and emotional issues, are being rotated in constantly through this home, how is this going to be maintained? The hospital overseeing this project already has low standing. There is no evidence that they have any experience with this size of a "transition home". The people that are to be maintaining this on a daily basis are not necessarily certified to care for these people. Some may even be volunteers. Safety should always be the number one priority, as it is in every other public space. If there is concern about safety, we need to study this further.

Another issue concerning this proposal is the safety of the veterans themselves. First off, the Tomah V.A. hospital has been in poor standings for many years, with a director that was fired for over prescribing opioids, and numerous deaths associated with the over prescribing. The new director has been in the position for less than a year, and the staff working there has been on strike within that last year due to understaffing related problems. This does not sound like a facility that is ready to branch out and try something that they have no experience with. The sheer size of this plan, implementing the home to house up to 10 veterans, is above and beyond what they had done in their past. I am concerned that this is a situation that is being set up for failure. Besides the size of the home, and the amount of veterans that they want to utilize it for, the fact remains that this house is set far from the source. If one of the veterans were to relapse on a Friday, what happens to them? The V.A. clinic within LaCrosse is closed on the weekend, as is the possibility of the veterans to be transported back to the Tomah unit. Would this then leave the veteran the lone possibility of spending the weekend in jail? This does not seem like the best choice for helping our veterans.

Being a home owner within the 200 feet of the proposed home, I am concerned with the fact that my property value will decline, and tax dollar will rise. I have been told by a financial advisor to expect up to a 20% decline

in home value, with my property taxes to raise approximately 15%. I bought this home because of the safe neighborhood, and the expectation that our investment would keep it's value. I fear that these reasons would be compromised by the development of this project.

I plan on attending the meetings both Monday and Tuesday. I urge you to look into this proposition from the standpoint of safety of all those involved. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Holly Kampa