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Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 8:00 PM
To: supervisor2@townofcampbellwi.gov; chair@townofcampbellwi.gov; ZZ Council Members
Subject: Homeless Housing Solutions

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Good evening,

I write to you as a resident of French Island over 20 years, as a taxpayer, as a mother, and a woman who is concerned about the potential purchase of the Norwood Inn & Suites and acquisition of this property for housing the homeless in the La Crosse area.

Research has indicated that homeless encampments can reduce property values up to 12.7% according to the National Association of Realtors. While I understand that this may not meet the exact definition of a homeless encampment, it seems that the same potential negative impacts will likely be present. In addition, there are many negative impacts that are cited as being shared between homeless shelters and homeless encampments.

The negative elements homeless encampments share with homeless shelters include:

- Higher crime rates
- Increased police calls into the neighborhood
- Damage to residential property by homeless shelter residents
- Significantly increased drug use in the neighborhood
- Increased public intoxication or inebriation
- Increased assaults on and threats to property owners or renters in the neighborhood

Questions I would currently pose for consideration:

- 1) With the current registered guests at Norwood Inn, what is the reported drug use and police intervention already being needed?
- 2) How would the City of La Crosse propose to fund the additional police presence that will most likely be needed, as the Town of Campbell would likely not be able to sustain or support any additional increases necessary to protect the full Town of Campbell?
- 3) What other options within the city limits of La Crosse are being explored?
- 4) What impact would the ownership of this property have on any potential conversations regarding Annexation of the Town of Campbell by the City of La Crosse?
- 5) How will the City of La Crosse propose to ensure the safety of the staff of Quillin's and other businesses and the business property near Norwood Inn?
- 6) What objective data do you have that would indicate that the outcome of this purchase would be any different than the outcome at EconoLodge previously?
- 7) What considerations are you giving to the decreased property values both now and future, when potentially there would no longer be a homeless shelter onsite?
- 8) What additional resources will be needed for sanitation to the grounds of Norwood Inn and who will be responsible for those expenses?
- 9) Sex trafficking has already been indicated as a common occurrence in areas of high homelessness in the La Crosse area - Houska Park and Econo Lodge for example. What will be done to decrease the risk of our children

that may be in that area, coming over the footbridge, to access Quillin's or go into La Crosse? I already do not let my children go to Quillin's alone due to having been approached by individuals that were under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol - in the store and in the parking lot. Those same individuals walked right over to Norwood Inn as their place of residence.

10) What would the City of La Crosse and Town of Campbell cite as benefits to this acquisition versus drawbacks?

11) What resources would be made available to those housed at Norwood Inn to support an avenue of independence and self sufficiency? What happens if those housed are not interested or willing to utilize resources as their individual goal is not independence and self sufficiency?

12) This building was recently under scrutiny for being potentially uninhabitable and deemed to nearly be condemned. What has changed since that determination was made? If not updates have been made, who is funding any necessary remodeling. Taxpayers? One time funding? Isn't that similar as to why Econo Lodge was not purchased?

13) Concerns have already been raised by The Salvation Army about using the Econo Lodge previously. [La Crosse Salvation Army receives 'disturbing' reports about EconoLodge homeless shelter, leaders say in letter | La Crosse | news8000.com](#) How would this be any different, especially now that this location is outside of the La Crosse City Limits?

Providing a roof over someone's head is not the same as a solution to homelessness. I do not support the purchase of Norwood Inn by the City of La Crosse as a solution for homeless members of our community. This seems to be a shift of burden from the City of La Crosse to the Town of Campbell. This seems to be a purchase plan with an underlying agenda that will not be brought forth with transparency until it is too late.

This photo was outside of Houska Park after clean up had been initiated. I do not want to see Norwood Inn and French Island turn into another Houska Park.



Garbage piled outside La Crosse's Houska Park on Mar. 15, 2023 (PHOTO: Brad Williams)

Sincerely yours,
Diana Lambries