

Lehrke, Teri

From: Kabat, Tim
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 12:46 PM
To: Acklin, Tim; Lehrke, Teri
Subject: FW: Rezoning Proposal in the Washburn Neighborhood

Catholic Charities request.

Tim Kabat

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

From: Washburn Neighborhood <washburnneighborhood@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 12:07 PM
To: Olson, Jessica <olsonje@cityoflacrosse.org>; Ostrem, Phillip A. <ostremp@cityoflacrosse.org>; Chris Kahlow <c_kahlow@yahoo.com>; Kabat, Tim <kabatt@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Fwd: Rezoning Proposal in the Washburn Neighborhood

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Hello there!

Here is another person with a concern regarding the rezoning taking place on 508 5th St. I sent the first email out to the entire council but will continue to send concerns only to you going forward as recommended. Thank you and have a good rest of your day!

~Shelly Staehly
WNA Board Member

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <aoschulz@charter.net>
Date: Tue, Aug 25, 2020 at 4:42 PM
Subject: RE: Rezoning Proposal in the Washburn Neighborhood
To: Washburn Neighborhood <washburnneighborhood@gmail.com>

Hi Shelly!

I support many efforts in the community to provide services for people. However, at this point I feel this building conversion and use, in this location, for this purpose, is too much in the same area. The Coulee Council building, along with many treatment and shelter locations, along with major hospitals and the Salvation Army, are too many. There are also several locations which supply a lot of alcohol nearby, and that is a known driver of some of the problems there. I also have had several people I have rented to, in the past several years who have not taken any share of responsibility for their actions, to put it tactfully. Some of them have been vouched for by Catholic Charities, but they have recently told me they don't actually check their backgrounds when they are entered into their shelters, so they don't actually

know them at all. I've had three evictions and/or non-renewal of leases by me , along with one tenants death and several tenant arrests all in the past 10 months. That is abnormal, but not completely surprising. I really have to take a much more serious look at CC clients, as well as those from the Tomah VA as well. These agencies work hard to get housing and shelter for their clients, but their followup and ongoing enforcement of their own rules fall short.

I didn't see how to comment on this proposal in the city documents provided, but I am opposed to this proposal. I've been an RN for 40 plus years, and a small landlord in that area for 30 years, and generally an optimist. I won the award for Landlord of the Year in the neighborhood just to the south a while back, and have gotten letters years later from former tenants thanking me for having helped them. I haven't been as active in Washburn recently, partially due to an injury I got when a Menard's unsupervised forklift driver drove into me, and partially because I only have a few apartments now. I do believe in the neighborhood, and know that the city has put a lot of resources into the area as well. There comes a point when too much is too much, though. I think that point has been reached with this proposal.

There do need to be changes in our society to foster social justice and reduce inequality. Racism and gun violence need to be eliminated, and a growing caste system needs to be systematically addressed. Continued high levels of spending on war means fewer resources for social services. The current form of charity isn't helping but only dealing with after-effects, and despite the efforts of a lot of good well-intentioned people, isn't solving the problems. You can use this letter if you need/want to.

Thank you.

Alan Schulz
