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Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 1:52 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Homeless Housing Options

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To whom it may concern,

I stumbled across the City of La Crosse Common Council agenda for 8/8/2024 and saw that a discussion about housing the homeless population is going to be discussed. I have clear and strong objections to the Norwood Hotel location being used to house the homeless in the future. Bringing the homeless population to French Island is going to be catastrophic for all businesses and households.

My parents live by Olivet Church, as well as many of my family and friends in the same general area. I grew up in that location. I never once felt unsafe, scared or uneasy. I am now a new mother and my sister also has a baby. We love bringing them over to their grandparent's house because of the safety and friendly demeanor of their neighborhood. There are always kids running around and families having fun. We strongly considered purchasing our first home near my old neighborhood.

The homeless population is the complete opposite of safe, friendly and neighborly. If you drive downtown La Crosse, you can clearly see (and hear) this population: heaps of garbage, personal belongings scattered everywhere, physical and verbal altercations, bothering law-abiding citizens for money as they are going into a business, the list goes on and on.

Mental illness and drug and alcohol abuse are common problems within that community; most do not want the help and are a burden on our healthcare system when they frequent area emergency rooms with "ailments" that they don't want to be treated for and rude behaviors. I understand that some accept the help, but most do not. My knowledge is from family and friends working in these local emergency rooms, as well as my personal observations when my family is needing to be seen.

I can assure you that bringing this population to French Island, a beautiful and comfortable place to live, will bring nothing but problems. I have summarized a few below:

1. Town of Campbell will need to hire more police officers to patrol that area, or have neighboring agencies assist, taking away resources in other communities. Crime rates will increase (look at America's Best Value Inn and the EconoLodge) and illegal activities will be taking place.
2. Neighboring businesses (Quillins, Celebrations on the River, Olivet Church, etc.) will likely experience issues of their own, such as stealing, littering and loitering. I know for a fact that a bride and groom will not want to see homeless people passed out in the parking lot or trying to ruin their special day. I wouldn't blame them for wanting to change venue locations, which is taking money away from a local business.
3. The clean-up in itself is a money pit. Look at Houska and Cameron Parks. How many times has our taxpayer money gone to clean up these locations, for them to be destroyed not even a week later? How many times are

the parks going to be closed to accommodate these people that don't do anything to contribute to our city? We always looked forward to the Farmer's Market on Friday evenings, but we haven't frequented this event due to concerns over the safety of our child in this well-known homeless park. Let's take this money being wasted and help our veterans instead, people that risked their lives for our country; they deserve the time and resources that the City is currently throwing away.

I will conclude this email by again stating bringing the homeless population to French Island is the wrong choice, for many reasons other than the ones I have listed here. For the safety and well-being of the citizens, I am asking to please consider the young families with their kids playing in the front yard. Please consider the elderly couple not afraid to take a walk in the evening. Please consider the out of town visitors imagining themselves purchasing a home in a quiet, family-friendly neighborhood. And please consider the first time grandparents, such as my parents, taking their young grandchildren to play at a clean park, full of other children having a fun afternoon.

Thank you for your time,
Alexis Hagedorn