

From: Elsen, Nikki
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 9:04 AM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW: Support for Motel purchase + 'pallet home' concerns

Nikki M. Elsen, wcmc

City Clerk
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From: Jess Thill <thill.jess@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2022 6:12 PM
To: ZZ Council Members <ZZCouncilMembers@cityoflacrosse.org>
Cc: Odegaard, Jason <Odegaardj@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Support for Motel purchase + 'pallet home' concerns

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Dear Council Members,

I'm sure you're getting lots of correspondence about your bold decision to purchase the Maple Grove Motel on the city's far South side. I want to add my voice to those in strong support of this much-needed project. Our city's residents (yes, even those who have only recently moved here) deserve safe, dignified housing options. The purchase of the motel is a worthwhile investment of our community's ARPA funding.

The modified 'pallet homes' that were described during the special council meeting last week also hold potential as another safe, private emergency shelter option for those who need it. I am concerned, however, about the proposal for two adults to share such a small space. Living in an insulated garden shed with 10 x 10 dimensions already requires significant creativity and sacrifice; asking two people, who may or may not know one another, to share such a space seems inhumane, especially if it leaves people without adequate space to have a table and chairs, to accommodate a pet, to place a mini-fridge or coffeemaker, or to store and easily access precious belongings.

I hope as the planning for these additional housing units progresses, you will fight for the kinds of accommodations that you would want: privacy, dignity, space to breathe and dream, safe ways to cook and enjoy favorite foods, easy access to bathing and laundry facilities, and flexible, affordable transportation options to and from other parts of the community. Additionally, I hope that any furnishings provided will comfortably support body sizes of all types and abilities.

Thank you for your support of big, bold ideas to meet the needs of those in our community who face housing insecurity.

Sincerely,

Jessica Thill
1417 Mississippi St