

**Craig, Sondra**

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**From:** Elsen, Nikki  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 10:09 AM  
**To:** Craig, Sondra  
**Subject:** FW: Maple grove

*Nikki M. Elsen, WCMC*

City Clerk  
City of La Crosse  
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**From:** Matt Becker <beckerm308@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 11, 2022 9:52 AM  
**To:** ZZ Council Members <ZZCouncilMembers@cityoflacrosse.org>  
**Subject:** Maple grove

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Dear City Council member's

My name is Matt Becker and I am a resident of Riverview Drive, a peaceful and quiet neighborhood near Southern Bluffs Elementary, and the new Homeless shelter that will take over the Maple Grove Motel. I'm writing to express my disappointment that my neighbors and I were never notified or invited to the Common Council meeting on February 22nd or asked our thoughts on the proposal, given the proximity to our homes. So now, I am writing to tell you, we are not happy.

I'm a young first-time homebuyer who has just made a big investment to settle down and begin a family in this quiet and safe pocket of town. Like the other young homeowners flocking to this side of the city, we settled here because it's close to a good school and felt like the old neighborhoods we grew up with in La Crosse - because there really aren't many safe havens like this anymore. With the addition of this homeless shelter, we can say goodbye to another one.

I've lived in La Crosse my whole life. My family has been in La Crosse for generations. I too, have what is best for this city in mind. I'm worried about the economy, health and safety of this community. La Crosse has experienced a drastic rise in drug overdoses, usage, death and crime in the last few years. Are we really to believe there's not a link here?

These aren't just irrational fears. A News 8 story [from December 21](#) stated that [between Nov 19 and Dec 9](#) of last year, there were 80 calls requesting police service at the Northside EconoLodge shelter. That's multiple calls a day...

I understand this is a complex and difficult problem. ***But why does La Crosse have a homelessness issue in the first place?*** Unemployment? Lack of affordable housing? Inadequate access to

affordable health care? Like mental health disturbances and drug abuse, homelessness is a symptom of a bigger problem.

The American Rescue Plan was founded to help the unemployed, renters and homeowners, restaurant/bars, farmers and small business, to provide child care services and assistance for veterans etc. Is this motel really the best use of these funds for our community?

With this money, perhaps we should address the root of *the actual problem* instead of hiding it on the outskirts of town. Or you'll run out of hiding spots in no time.

Sincerely,

Your constituent, tax payer, future of the city, and disregarded neighbor.

Matt Becker