

Craig, Sondra

From: Kate Zirzow <kajani02@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 10:33 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Overnight Shelter Norwood Inn

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Dear council members,

I am writing this email to you all today to express my frustration with the proposed overnight shelter location of Norwood Inn & Suites, located in the Town of Campbell. As a former French Island resident, I still frequent the Island as many of my family members still live there. When I heard about your proposal regarding purchasing the hotel for a shelter, I was blown away. Why would anyone think this is a good idea?? Have any of you been inside that hotel? It is a complete disrepair. Bulldozing that hotel is the only smart idea. Not only mentioning the price tag of 2 million for the purchase, it will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to get that bed bug infested hotel into some type of condition where you can bring people in. What are they going to drink? Not the water! The pool area has a ceiling fan hanging by wires, mattress and boards are set up against broken windows and not to mention the drug use, prostitution and police/ems calls. Do any of you remember what happened with the Econo Lodge? What did it cost to fix that up after the homeless were done trashing it?

Currently the Police Dept on French Island is not a 27/7/365 dept. That means that the County Sheriff's Dept will need to pick up the slack. Have you looked into their staffing numbers during the overnight shift? It's not many officers. They will not be able to handle the call volume. In addition, the Fire Dept on French Island is staffed only by volunteers.

I have been looking into purchase my first home back on French Island as that is where I grew up, my family is located, I love the community and the parks where my husband and I can take our dog to exercise. If this agenda passes, I will be looking elsewhere. One of the parks we frequently is Sky Harbor ball park. . . just a short distance from the hotel. I can guarantee you this will be a new meeting spot for the homeless population during the day when they are required to leave at 7:00am. What do you think these people are going to do during those day time hours? They are going to wonder the neighborhoods and create crime. Theft, break-in's, leaving needles on our streets. It has been proven over and over again that the services offered by the City of La Crosse is not wanted by them!! Why do you keep enabling??? Why do you keep shifting the problem from one area to another instead of putting your money where your mouth is and actually FIX THE DAMN PROBLEM!!!! Build a dormitory style building and have requirements that need to be followed and met in order for occupancy (drug testing, job applications, mental health services etc) Didn't the City of La Crosse hire someone to deal with the current homeless problem? Mayor Reynolds has caused this problem and now he doesn't want to face his consequences of his actions. Bringing them to the Island will not stand!

Not only will this idea of purchasing Norwood increase crime, drugs, traffic on the Island, I'm sure we will lose the only store we have. Quillin's has seen an uptick in theft from the current homeless guests that stay at the hotel now. They've had to cut hours back trying to save a buck so they can keep the doors open. The next closest convenience store is over a mile away. You will be taking our neighborhood, parks and the community we all know it. Home values will decrease as people move off the island to get away from this problem you all are trying to create. . . and I can tell you they won't be moving to the City of La Crosse.

I urge you to vote NO on this matter.

Thank you,

Kate Zirzow