

Craig, Sondra

From: Elsen, Nikki
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 8:10 AM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW: Maple Grove Motel meeting at Southside Neighborhood Center

Nikki M. Elsen, WCMC

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From: Ronald and Carol Egge <rcegge@charter.net>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 2:03 PM
To: Reynolds, Mitch <reynoldsm@cityoflacrosse.org>; ZZ Council Members <ZZCouncilMembers@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Maple Grove Motel meeting at Southside Neighborhood Center

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My wife and I are writing to inform you that we are totally against the purchase of the Maple Grove Motel for the use of sheltering a fraction of the City's homeless population. We have lived on Bentwood Place which is only a 10 minute walk from the motel for over 32 years. Our area is made up of a large number of retirees and in the last few years we have seen a considerable number of young families move into the area which is delightful. Having kids in the area makes everyone younger.

We are afraid that with the city bringing in homeless people to the area, especially with the reputation we have heard from the Econo Lodge of drug use and sex trafficking, the value of our properties will deteriorate, as well as the freedom of all of the residents to move around the area as we are now accustomed to will be taken away from us.

We also feel that the homeless should be taken care of by providing all of them housing that is safe and humane for every season we have in Wisconsin.

Please listen to our concerns as well as the overwhelming number of concerns from other individuals and vote "NO" for the purchase of the Maple Grove Motel to use as a homeless shelter.

Our concerns:

1. We as a community were kept in the dark about the proposal to purchase the motel until it was too late to object. No information meetings were held to inform the public and to get our input on such an enormous project.
2. The purchase of this motel is an inappropriate use, and actually a waste of the 'free' covid money the city has received.
3. The purchase price far exceeds the tax assessment of the property. We understand the property should have been assessed for 95% of its market value. What is wrong here? Who is benefiting from a purchase price double the assessed value?
4. Why are those living in the motel being pushed out and added to the list of the homeless?
5. This so-called shelter would only house less than a third of the homeless population.

6. This area is the 'Gateway' into the city from the south. It should be enhanced and not turned into a slum area. The area will look like crap with shacks piled up around the motel building as well as all the stuff the homeless will have to leave outside because there is no place large enough to house their possessions.
7. Who will pick up all the trash like used needles and other drug materials in order to keep a clean looking area?
8. Who will keep the Mexican Restaurant safe and secure from those looking for free food and drink? This business will be very vulnerable to break-ins.
9. Will this business lose customers because they don't feel safe when they see a large number of homeless spread out next door?
10. The clean and inviting Clayton Johnson city park is only a 5 or 10 minute walk from the motel by using the paved Pammel Creek walkway. Will this park be taken over by some of the homeless who would rather live outside rather than in the motel or the shacks?
11. The Clayton Johnson Park is an inviting park for young families and young children. The city is currently using taxpayer dollars to enhance the park for the children. With homeless moving around this park it will no longer be available to the young people? The parents will be afraid to let their children be in the park due to the homeless roaming the park and the potential for needles and assaults.
12. The Pammel Creek walkway is also heavily used by walkers of all ages. These walkers and bikers will also be afraid to use this walkway, especially if they walk alone.
13. The pathway also provides easy access to the Juniper Estates subdivision that is home to a large number of retirees. These homeowners can become easy targets for those looking for free money and drugs.
14. Will our property values decline as prospective buyers see the area filled with some homeless living and walking around the area, especially the park?
15. If some of the homeless would want to go shopping for groceries, etc, there is no bus stop available to them without crossing a 4 lane highway that is heavily traveled with traffic operating at speeds exceeding 40 miles per hour. How many fatal pedestrian accidents can the city anticipate?

Please reconsider your choice of the motel for the homeless. There is a much better solution out there if you would just open your minds up and look for it. Don't lower the value of an entire neighborhood just because the city has free money to spend and it might 'look' good to outsiders, and even city residents, that have no idea what is going on here in the city.

Would you want this in your neighborhood when all of the homeless could be helped much better with a better solution that considers them all?

Please vote "NO" to the purchase of the Maple Grove Motel.

Thank you.

Ron and Carol Egge