

Section 1- Proponent Input

As of August 14th, at 3:30pm

Brenda Gilmer
3640 Ocean View Dr.
Florence, OR 97439
541-590-5060
brendaigilmer@gmail.com



August 14, 2023

Florence City Council
250 Hwy 101
Florence, Oregon 97439

Hand delivered

Re: EMERGENCY SHELTER PROPOSAL DISCUSSION

Dear Council Members:

I respectfully request that you move forward as quickly as possible with this emergency shelter proposal. The shelter's establishment and first year of operations are funded and will provide a missing piece of a coherent response to terrible conditions that so many Florence residents face.

Councilors Meyer and Carp. I have read some of your statements and hope you will more deeply learn about and consider the facts of Florence's emergency. If the councilor now attending our local court proceedings has not fully informed the entire council of the nature and extent of the eviction problem in town, I hope that person will do so and also inform the public more generally. The Chamber of Commerce can ignore humanity and dress pretty for parties – it is a corporation. The Chamber can speak for the city and make decisions if and when we the people adopt a fascist form of government. We are not there quite yet. For now, you are the government and it is your responsibility to protect and serve all of us, including those who have the least. The councilor attending court can set the record straight if I misspeak, but in Florence as in the rest of the country, the fastest growing number of people without housing are elderly women. The words, "it is a lifestyle 'they' choose" are so very false, are dangerous to our fragile neighbors. And they mislead the public who needs representatives who seek the truth and share the facts without regard to politics of prejudice.

I am attaching a July 3, 2019, missive sent to the planning commission via a former employee from Sherry Harvey so that it can be made a part of the record of this process of dealing/not dealing with the fact of homelessness in our community, as well as a September 10, 2019 letter from Florence Food Share noting that, four years ago, our Food Share served 227 unique homeless individuals and that with Florence's lack of long term affordable effective housing, there is no end in sight.

The City of Florence remains subject to the holdings in the *Boise* federal court decision, which was recently ratified by full 9th Circuit panel. Unless there is a place in the City where a bed is available to them, houseless people are allowed to sleep, unmolested, on public property. Festivals and car shows are ripe opportunities for bringing that point home to any town that thumbs its nose at its responsibilities to the wider and poorer community. If Florence does not start actively dealing with the problem it has so long ignored, it cannot complain when coercion and financial penalties are forced on it.

This emergency shelter proposal is only one facet of the solution and it is a very good start. It has a good plan and adequate financing. Hopefully we can all learn from it so that forceful, dictated and costly remedies for wrongful conduct are not required. And you could help. And if you did help you would learn how misguided and harmful the stereotypes and harsh words are, to the people at whom they're directed and to yourselves and your community.

Sincerely,



Brenda Gilmer

From: [Phillip tarvin](#)
To: [Kelli Weese](#)
Subject: Fwd: FW: Summary of Building code Survey for the Planning Commission
Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 7:14:48 AM
Attachments: [survey data housing.pdf](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Vevie McPherren** <vevie.mcpherren@ci.florence.or.us>
Date: Wed, Jul 3, 2019 at 4:47 PM
Subject: FW: Summary of Building code Survey for the Planning Commission
To:

Hello Commissioners,

The information below and the survey data attachment are correspondence only. There has not been initiation done by Planning Commission or City Council so this information is not testimony.

Thank you kindly,

Vevie "Viva"

LiveHappy!

Vevie M. McPherren

Planning Administrative Assistant

vevie.mcpherren@ci.florence.or.us

541-997-8237

City of Florence

250 Hwy 101

Florence, OR 97439

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From: sherry harvey <sl.harvey@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 03, 2019 12:21 PM
To: Vevie McPherren <vevie.mcpherren@ci.florence.or.us>
Subject: Summary of Building code Survey for the Planning Commission

Vevie, Please forward this to the planning commission for me.

Commissioners,

For your upcoming work session on revised building codes, I have summarized the results of the survey that was given to the public to make it easier for you, plus I attached the original results. The consultants did not share the result details with the CEDC committee prior to their vote.

Florence Housing Survey June 20, 2019 (questions are shortened and simplified. The full document is attached)

Note: Oppose = those who answered "Oppose" or "Strongly oppose". Support = those who answered "Support" or "Strongly support", "Neutral" was ignored.

1. Rename residential districts from Restricted Residential to low-density and *single-family to Medium-Density* . . . etc. (which allows tri-, quad-plex and clusters in single family residential)

Oppose 48% Support 41%

2. Reduce minimum lot sizes

Oppose 50% Support 41%

3. Expand housing options, including: Duplexes/duets and cluster housing in Low - Density residential.

Oppose 50% Support 44%

4. Allow second-floor residential uses in the Commercial, Old Town, and North Commercial zones

Oppose 27% Support 59%

5. Allow ground-floor affordable housing development in Commercial zones

Oppose 50% Support 38%

6. Allow temporary RV dwellings for medical hardships

Oppose 34% Support 48%

7. Define 'transitional housing' but don't permit it in any zone until a broader community conversation about transitional housing takes place

Oppose 26% Support 51%

9. Provide non-discretionary review options for most residential development types. Require public hearings only for more complicated developments

Oppose 38% Support 50%

10. Provide a Type II (staff) Adjustment option for projects with requests for small modifications

Oppose 28% Support 46%

11. Allow Planned Unit Developments within 1/4 mile of an underdeveloped park to pay a fee to develop that park in lieu of providing open space.

Oppose 43% Support 44%

12. Provide option to meet parking requirements through an on-street credit

Oppose 50% Support 36%

13. Provide option for residential development to meet parking requirements in

part through provision of a driveway space

Oppose 27% Support 57%

14. Implement the following parking standards for tri-plexes, quadplexes, multi-family and cluster housing: 1-bedroom: 1 space per unit 2- bedroom: 1.25 spaces per unit 3-bedroom: 1.5 spaces per unit

Oppose 45% Support 36%

15. Allow phasing for large projects

Oppose 31% Support 45%

16. Allow "key", "butt" and "flag" lots with appropriate access

Oppose 29% Support 51%

Note: Items that were clearly "*opposed*" by the public were ignored by the consultants and no adjustments were made to the document which went on to the next step of approval.

FLORENCE
FOOD SHARE

*... because no one
should be hungry*



2190 Spruce St
PO Box 2514
Florence, OR 97439

Phone: 541-997-9110

info@florencfoodshare.org

www.florencfoodshare.org



United Way of Lane County

Florence Food Share is an
equal opportunity employer.

09-10-19

Florence Food Share served 227 unique homeless individuals. Although many of these individuals are passing thru, this number is staggering.

Frequently these individuals are sleeping in their cars, living out of a backpack, or sleeping on a friends couch. With no housing security these individuals have an even harder time with things such as meal planning, preparing for job interviews, or getting access to much needed health care.

Although many organizations are currently working on solutions to this problem, with Florence's current lack of long term effective affordable housing this issue currently has no end in sight.

City Recorder

From: 1brookie.bs@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 4:25 AM
To: City Recorder
Subject: Full time shelter

Dear City of Florence Council Members,

I am a retired social worker and I have been working on and off with the Cold Weather Shelter since its inception.

I am in favor of developing a program in Florence that is similar to the one in Coos Bay.

I have known and helped many of the people who have been homeless in Florence.

They are human beings with needs, just like everyone else who is part of our community.

This program will not only help those who are in need , it will also bring economic resources to our community that will assist every resident of Florence. I urge you to vote to move forward towards applying for the funds that would allow a permanent community for persons who are homeless to develop.

Let's be proud of our city and all of our residents. Let's be a role model for other cities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Catherine B. Shafer

1600 Rhododendron Drive SPC 254

Florence, Oregon

Sent from my iPad



City of Coos Bay

Office of the Mayor

500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon 97420

Phone 541- 269-8912 • Fax 541- 267-5912

<http://www.coosbayOR.gov>

August 8, 2023

City of Florence
Mayor and City Council
250 Hwy 101
Florence, OR 97439

RE: Florence Emergency Housing Project

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the proposed emergency shelter proposed by the Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter Committee. As a community with a similarly structured site, focused on assisting individuals with transitioning from homeless to housed, Coos Bay can attest to this model and the positive impact it has had within our community and for those experiencing homelessness. Coos Bay's project, Coalbank Village, is fully operated and managed by The Devereux Center and has proven to be a crucial step towards addressing the pressing issue of homelessness and providing support for those in need.

Having awareness of community concerns regarding potential increased crime, negative impact on tourism, and an increase in the homeless population due to the provision of services, suggests that the city of Florence is engaging community input and providing educational opportunities which will assist with general community consensus. Coos Bay's experience with similar community concerns has shown that the benefits of Coalbank Village far outweigh any perceived drawbacks.

First and foremost, the provision of emergency sheltering offers a safe haven for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. By providing a stable and secure living environment, these vulnerable members of our community have opportunity to rebuild their lives and regain self-sufficiency. As with Coos Bay's Coalbank Village project, Florence's project can not only contribute to improving the lives of those in need but will also strengthen the fabric of the community by fostering compassion and unity among its residents.

In regards to concerns regarding potential increased crime, research has consistently shown that well-managed shelter projects have a neutral or even positive impact on local crime rates. Such facilities are typically subject to stringent security measures and close monitoring to ensure the safety of both the residents and the surrounding neighborhood. Collaborating with law enforcement and implementing effective security protocols will be essential in maintaining a secure environment for everyone. This is exactly the approach taken by The Devereux Center in the early stages of developing the management and security guidelines for Coalbank Village. Because of this early effort, Coos Bay Police Department has responded to the site minimally.

Though there may be a concern regarding a perceived impact on tourism, it is essential to consider the bigger picture. A compassionate and caring community that supports those in need is a powerful draw for socially conscious tourists. Moreover, by addressing homelessness, we can enhance the overall appeal of our town or city as a welcoming and empathetic destination. Initiatives that demonstrate a commitment to social responsibility have been known to attract visitors who seek to support local communities and contribute positively to the places they visit. Coalbank Village has proven to be a well-managed facility, with intentional effort towards minimizing the potential of a negative outside view. Coos County's overall tourism numbers are on the rise, following the pandemic freeze, and show no signs of stopping, a clear indication that serving the homeless population can be done without reducing the tourism draw.

Finally, the concern about the potential increase in the homeless population due to the availability of services, has not proven to be factual for Coos Bay. For Coos Bay, and likely for Florence, it was crucial to understand that homelessness was already a reality. Providing emergency shelter and services does not create homelessness but rather addresses it in a more humane and proactive manner. With proper coordination of services, ability to effectively identify and provide assistance to those genuinely in need is met, ensuring that the benefits extend to those who truly require support.

Coos Bay has found that Coalbank Village has been a tremendous asset to our community. With appropriate management and proper planning, the community impacts can be minimized. And through this effort, and the City's partnership with The Devereux Center, 40% of the individuals that have been residents of Coalbank Village have successfully transitioned to supportive housing.

Sincerely,



Joe Benetti
Mayor

August 14, 2023

To the Florence City Council

RE: Citizen Input -- Proposal to Build a Full-Time Homeless Shelter in Florence

I am writing to you as a citizen of Florence since 2018 who is involved as an occasional volunteer at the Methodist Church's Thursday Free Lunch program and a fairly consistent donor to Food Share. I am also a member of the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, which adopts various community partners in Florence to support with our donations.

I am strongly in support of the opportunity being offered to Florence to accept \$500,000 from the State of Oregon to create a full-time shelter for the homeless.

Yesterday I learned from Rev. Dr. Ruth Miller, who is one of the ministers serving the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, about her extensive experience serving the homeless. She has owned property in Florence, although she is not currently a resident.

The following is a summary of what she shared yesterday at church as it relates to her first-hand experience with addressing homelessness in the communities where she has served.

In the 1980s-early '90s, Ruth Miller worked with community development processes in Portland. When the boarding houses were made illegal and the federal government shut down the mental institutions there was a huge increase in the population of "Skid Row" around China Town. A couple agencies ran shelters, which provided minimum services and kept most of the folks who needed them from wandering into other parts of the city. During the '90s a couple nonprofits were formed and began to convert older buildings, and later build new ones, as "SRO" facilities: basically, dormitory structures where each resident had their own bed-bath space with a shared lounge-kitchen space. That made it possible for those with low-paying jobs or low monthly benefits to have a warm dry place to call home. It also launched development in the area, which is now the artsy condominium-and-apartment community known as "The Pearl District."

From there, Ruth moved to Corvallis, where a nonprofit corporation raised funds and built several subsidized housing projects, providing long-term rentals for low-income (less than 80% of median) families. Those structures have onsite management and are still good-looking contributions to the community. Also, several houses that were scheduled to be torn down were moved to what had been a parking lot - and they're still looking good. Over 5 years, then, the non-profit provided about 50 units of low-income housing at no cost to the taxpayers, that are simply part of the community today.

From Corvallis, Ruth moved to and worked in Grants Pass in the late 90s early 2000s. The local Gospel Mission shelter was struggling and received funds to create a much larger one on the edge of the tourist district, Old Town, next to the railroad tracks. They built a very attractive building with meeting rooms and a library and dining room, and a wing for men and another for

women/children. They built raised bed gardens to grow much of their food, and offered regular study groups as well as meals and both transitional and emergency shelter. In spite of everyone's worst fears, there was no increase, but actually a decrease in needy people in the tourist shopping area, and a safe place for the most vulnerable in the community. Over the years, it was learned that some men simply don't like to live in buildings -- and a few of the volunteers were able to make it possible for those folks to have a safe place to camp on the edge of town and earn a little money doing small jobs.

From 2007 to 2020 Ruth lived and worked in Gleneden Beach and helped form a transitional home for men at the south end of Lincoln City. They learned then that there are many men who live along the coast who don't ever want to live in buildings and would have nothing to do with us. But in those few years that the City let our group use one of its vacant properties where housing for 5-8 men at a time helped 29 get their lives together, find work, and move into long-term housing.

In Gleneden Beach, as in Grants Pass and the SROs in Portland, there was a resident manager who got to know the residents. Social service case management was available, and groups worked with churches for those who were seeking spiritual counseling and support, set the residents up with 12-step programs, and worked closely with the Goodwill Employment Services staff.

I sincerely hope the board will consider Dr. Miller's vast experience in all these projects. The net result was a decrease in local homelessness without any increased cost to the community, and with no degradation of the neighborhood because the projects are well-designed and well-managed by people who live there.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Darlene Norwood
4933 Cloudcroft Lane
Florence, OR 97439
Mobile: 661-265-5427

Mayor & City Council, I am Jacquelyn Earnest, 5 Waterford Downs. Prior to living in Florence I volunteered for a homeless day shelter for women in San Diego & was on the board for a home that housed women who were transitioning from the streets. We had everything from domestic violence, health issues, pregnancy & whatever caused them to not be able to afford a place to live. The day shelter allowed them a place to go to get clothing, toiletries & a meal. I wanted to be of service & had no experience directly with the homeless. When I started on my first day I was nervous because I felt disconnected from "these women". It was not my world & I didn't understand who & why they could end up without a home. My first job was to help get clothing so they could go to job interviews. The first woman I met had a bandage on her face. I asked why & she said it was a gunshot & she was in the wrong place at the wrong time. I said from my ignorance, wow I know how that must feel. She said, no you don't & you have no idea what I deal with in the streets. I apologized & said yes, you are right I do not. From that point on, I started to get the plight of the homeless & meet them as my fellow humans. I worked with women who had a place to crochet, write poetry, & feel safe for the day. It opened my eyes to humanity & how we are not that different from those who fell through the cracks. The home graduated many women who found jobs, & became advocates for others who were struggling. This was a win/win of compassion & what is possible. Thank you.

Lindsey White

From: Janine Reep <janinejreep@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 8:53 AM
To: Lindsey White
Subject: Comments re Proposal for new homeless shelter in Florence

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the City of Florence's proposed plan to establish a homeless/transitional housing shelter in Florence. In my view, this is very much needed and I was very pleased to hear that these plans are in the works.

We need to be looking out for all the needs of our population in Florence and I applaud the City's efforts in adopting this new plan.

Thank you very much,

Janine Reep
2055 W. Park Dr.
Florence, OR

City Recorder

From: Jennifer Yocum <jenniferyocum@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 2:19 PM
To: City Recorder
Subject: Testimony in favor of proposed shelter plan

Letter in Support of Permanent Emergency Shelter Project in Florence, Oregon

Greetings to the City Council:

My name is Rev. Dr. Jennifer Yocum. I live in Florence, but I supervised the Severe Weather Shelter at Forest Grove United Church of Christ in Washington County, Oregon for 10 years from 2008-2018. I've been involved in services and issues related to homelessness since the 1980s and I have the following thoughts to share, First, we are already paying for services for those experiencing homelessness. We're just doing it in the most expensive, least effective means possible, and second, the accompanying moral cost of not attending to the multiple crises around homelessness is breaking our communities apart.

Let me attend to my first claim, that our community is already paying for homelessness. People experience homelessness for any number of reasons, but homelessness tends to be accompanied by joblessness, deferred health care, trauma, and harmful self-medication strategies. Those who experience chronic homelessness often have to cope with physical disabilities, mental illness and/or addiction and crime or misdemeanor records that impede future job or housing prospects. In the shelter world, we used to say that our guests ended up with a bed from us, the jail, or the ED, and we were by far the cheapest option. But letting homelessness be addressed by the docs (ED) or the cops (Public Safety) or shelters alone, does nothing to solve, stem, or shift unhoused people out of homelessness.

Communities wind up paying for homelessness through funding social service benefits which are insufficient to maintain housing or wellness, paying for emergency room care for non-urgent conditions, funding unnecessary public safety responses which may include court proceedings and jail time, sanitation responses, and paying for employer costs for tending to issues stemming from people sleeping out on their property.

The list below provides an incomplete summary of the kind of costs that can arise from NOT attending to homelessness in a coordinated fashion.

- 1) The average cost per Emergency Department visit in Oregon for non-emergent care, such as acute bronchitis, is \$2200.
(https://uk01.l.antigena.com/l/rUht2cEKjja3bCl6iU9KNcUAJEjsl7PMPqjxsRk3GJBeNvF~gIN7YvXNvHPq4~JAPy_bkh2IP37axe4ladc81Xp9coA4PgCgFFgcpUgwKQ9YUCZpC2~Y186AT25LfqzAjiGvASARLYZnjqAhbR8l4i_P5qiUNm6s_0dZjJXw5R) When those bills go unpaid, costs get passed on to those who pay for insurance.
- 2) The cost for a jail bed in Lane County is \$155 per day (figure from 2019). Cost per inmate per year is \$88,740. Homeless people are being kept because they don't have the means to make court appearances and those jail costs get passed on to taxpayers. (<https://usafacts.org/articles/how-much-do-states-spend-on-prisons/>)
- 3) The current budget for Public Safety in Florence is \$5.75 million, more than 1/3 of operating expenses for the whole city. (Source, City of Florence Adopted Operating Budget). If even 10% of those calls to police and fire services are for those experiencing homelessness, that's already half a million dollars that does NOTHING to actually attend to the root problem.

Homelessness on the scale we're seeing here in Oregon is a moral catastrophe. We've seen homelessness jump 23% from 2020-2022, primarily due to spikes in housing costs, and our state has the third highest population of homeless

people in the country. The fall into homelessness can lead to severe depression for adults and children.

(<https://www.oregonlive.com/politics/2023/04/oregons-recent-growth-in-homelessness-among-largest-in-nation.html>)

The sharp divide in income, opportunity, and accessibility echoes the divide across politics and civility. It builds distrust, fosters dissent, and tears at our capacity for community resiliency. Accepting homelessness as a chronic and growing condition, about which “nothing” can be done, fosters hopelessness and fear for the housed and unhoused.

In conclusion, the best most effective plans to address homelessness have to include safe, supported permanent housing. The plan to invest in emergency shelter here in Florence is one step toward that goal. It is not enough, but it provides an important next phase to continue the work of SOS, several local churches, and those individuals who have worked so hard for so long to make sure that everyone in Florence has a home here.

Thanks for your time and your service to our community,

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Yocum

Lindsey White

From: Judy Ebbe <judyebbe@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 8:18 AM
To: Lindsey White
Subject: The Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter (FECWS)

Dear Ms. White,

My husband and I support The Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter (FECWS) plan to partner with the Devereau Center to create a full-time shelter for the homeless. We believe that not only is it the "right thing to do" but that it will eventually be seen as an asset to the community, once it is built and the shouting dies down.

As you may be aware, there has been quite a commotion on Next Door this past week regarding the proposed shelter and there are both pro and con opinions. We have posted in favor of the shelter. Most of the negative comments seem to be on the type of "I don't want a shelter in Florence." We have posted twice that the City of Florence does not really have a choice to provide shelter or not because of the Court Cases of Blake v City of Grants Pass (2019) and Martin v Boise (2017). I am copying and pasting our second Next Door post so you can read our post plus have the link to the article.

*****posted on Next Door*****

I earlier posted a link to the Court Case of Blake v City of Grants Pass and am again posting it. I don't believe that those opposing the shelter understand what the City of Florence (or any city in America) is up against. The precedent case is Martin v Boise. In 2017, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the District Court judgment for the plaintiff. In 2019, the District Court ruled in favor of the plaintiff in the Blake v City of Grants Pass case. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to review, thus leaving the District Court decision intact. THIS IS ESTABLISHED LAW. Essentially, this means that a city cannot eject an unhoused person from any public land unless there is available HUD shelter space. Failure to provide shelter for those who are involuntarily unhoused amounts to a violation of the 8th Amendment: cruel and unusual punishment and imposition of excessive bails. Before going to the City Council meeting, please review the Court Case. No one should attend with the intention of shouting down the Council until they read this. You wouldn't want your ignorance to embarrass you.

<https://casetext.com/case/blake-v-city-of-grants-pass-1>

*****end of post*****

We believe that if the Established Law of the two cases was reviewed with the public at your meeting tonight, it might help defuse a lot of the negativities toward the Council's proposal for the shelter.

I was a Certified Real Estate Appraiser in the state of California (Orange County) for 22 years. It is a difficult thing to prove whether a shelter has a negative impact on property values. The reason why it is difficult to measure is that sale data have to be studied both before and after the shelter is built. Other factors besides the shelter have to be extracted from the data; i.e., market increases/decreases due to other factors such as interest rates, increased traffic not due to the shelter plus more. It is a difficult thing to measure and no person, especially one who has not had experience in valuation of this type, can make a projection of what the shelter will do to property values.

We live full-time in an unincorporated area of the Florence zip code (The Reserve at Heceta Beach) and understand if you do not take into consideration our choice. However, the proposed site for the

shelter will be in closer proximity to us than those who live in the Downtown area, so we hope that our preference for the shelter will count for something. We plan to be at the City Council meeting tonight and to be quiet while the Council and Devereau present their proposal. We know we will learn much.

In all sincerity, we wish you good luck and a peaceful meeting tonight!

John and Judy Ebbe
5250 Dunewood Drive
Florence, OR 97439
949-229-9323 or 949-309-6436

Please feel free if you want to publish our letter (or not).

August 11, 2023

To: Florence Mayor Rob Ward and City Councilors Sally Wantz, Bill Meyer, Jo Beaudreau and Robert Carp

From: Karin Radtke, resident of Lane County north of Florence

Letter in support of the proposal for a year-round emergency shelter in Florence

I watched the meeting of the Florence City Council on August 3rd when there was a presentation and discussion of the proposal for a year-round shelter in Florence. The information presented was very detailed and based on several years of experience by the Devereaux Group in Coos Bay, who will also oversee the Florence project.

As a resident in Lane County outside of the jurisdiction of the City of Florence, I appreciate many of the amenities that are available to everyone in Florence. Among them are the charming Old Town area, the recent improvements at Highway 101 and along Rhododendron Drive, the playgrounds and other facilities at many large and smaller parks, the public library, and a well-respected Police Department, Fire Department and Mobile Crisis Unit.

I would also appreciate knowing that anyone in Florence who is in need of a helping hand to get themselves out of a current situation of “living rough” without proper shelter, can be offered that opportunity. I believe the proposed year-round shelter can become the “Good Samaritan” response to emergency situations of fellow members of society.

It is very significant that Siuslaw Outreach Services, Helping Hands, the Mobile Crisis Unit, and other local groups, as well as those involved in law enforcement and health care services, all support this proposal.

Please vote in favor of advancing this proposal in a timely manner in order to bring the necessary funds to Florence and get the shelter operating as soon as possible.

Thank you for the many hours of your time spent on becoming informed about this issue.

Karin Radtke

hradtke@peak.org 541 999-9337

Lindsey White

From: SHAMEY_KATHERINE <Shamey_Katherine@smc.edu>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 4:06 PM
To: cityrecorder@ci.fl.or.us
Cc: Lindsey White
Subject: Personal Remarks: Homeless Shelter

Mayor Ward, President Wantz, Council Members, and Community Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I do support the proposal for the creation of a full-time emergency shelter in Florence.

I am pleased to explain why I support this proposal. My reasons are pretty simple:

- 1). What we as a city, county, state, and society are doing now to address this issue is simply not working. In Florence we depend on the generosity and efforts of a few churches, some community groups, and many individual community members. And these are all doing the very best they can to address the issues; but we still have serious and severe needs.
We need a well organized effort like the current proposal before all of us right now. It may not be perfect in every way, but it is surely worth the attempt. I just can't see the wisdom in turning down this \$500,000 grant, which just may offer some improvement for our homeless people in particular and for our city in general. Especially when we have nothing better to offer and what we are currently doing is severely limited.
- 2). I've heard it said that we shouldn't be giving "handouts." I don't see helping the homeless as a "handout." Would anyone of us voluntarily choose to be homeless? Imagine the horror of it. It's not the carefree life of a vagabond type of "king of the road" person seeking adventure. It is a life of utter despair and desperation. Yet, some will still say that "it's their own fault, so "no handouts." But lots of different reasons have brought people to homelessness: Mental health issues, loss of employment, lack of affordable housing, just to name a few. And yes, for some it is poor choices. But we don't refuse to save a drowning person because they chose not to wear a lifejacket. Yes, it certainly was a poor choice.
But we still give them a helping hand. Don't we?
- 3). I think we have to recognize and accept where needy people like the homeless are in their lives, whatever the cause, and go from there to try to offer something to help them change their lives for the better. As their lives improve, this then has the ripple effect of improving their community as well. I just don't see anyone losing here. The proposed shelter with its organizational structure just may help. I see it as a possibility for meaningful change--but definitely not a certainty--nothing is really certain, is it? But to do next to nothing, as we are doing now, is not a option for us as a community. Especially when we have the offer of a \$500,00 grant to help us.

I hope our city council votes to accept the proposal for the emergency shelter. And once we have this shelter, I hope our community will take as much pride in it as we do in our animal shelter, offering assistance and support,

Thank you for you again for the opportunity to share my views,

Kathy Shamey
Florence, OR

City Recorder

From: Locuta <locuta@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 12:33 AM
To: City Recorder
Subject: Permanent homeless emergency shelter proposal: SUPPORT

I support the proposal to have the Deveraux Center operate a comprehensive homeless shelter and assistance facility on the City of Florence property.

In addition to addressing the urgent humanitarian crisis of homelessness and housing insecurity, I hope this program will be the first small step toward a comprehensive, multi-tiered, public-domain workforce housing program.

Like most of the communities on the Oregon coast, Florence has a workforce housing problem -- especially for the lower end of the pay scale. It is to the benefit of the community and the region to have a stable supply of workforce housing that is not subject to market speculation and "investment" purchases.

One of the most sensible and humane elements of the proposal is working with the County of Lane to increase availability of and access to mental health services. Untreated and under-treated mental illness has been a significant source of homelessness for 40 years.

Kirsten Barquist
Florence, Oregon

City Recorder

From: mark marklevymusic.com <mark@marklevymusic.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 12, 2023 9:54 AM
To: City Recorder
Subject: Homeless shelter comment

Hi Lindsey,

I wish to make the following comment Aug. 14, both verbally and written:

The necessity of having a full-time homeless shelter is of vital importance to our community. The number of houseless and destitute people here constitutes a public emergency. Opposing this project on the basis of having more people come to Florence is more dangerous to everyone in this situation and the rest of us in the community. They will still come regardless of whether or not housing is offered, and, like those already on our streets, will be more likely to have trouble. Being hungry with no place to go is not a choice for most who are finding hard times due to high housing costs and post-pandemic unemployment. Keeping our city inhospitable to those who are suffering is not very Christian, nor is it in keeping with all religious and spiritual teachings. Please vote to support this worthy project!

Mark Levy
Florence for Responsible Government

To: Mayor Ward, Florence City Councilors and City Manager Erin Reynolds
From: Michael Allen
Date: August 14, 2023
Subject: Support for Year-round Emergency Shelter and Cold Weather Shelter Programs

I am writing in support of the addition of year round Emergency Shelters as proposed by the Cold Weather Shelter Group and their partners from Coos Bay. One of the biggest assets in this proposal is the provision of resource coordination which will greatly assist those served to become productive citizens in our community.

I do have one concern. I have volunteered at the Cold Weather Shelters and have met many who are homeless in my climate actions while on the streets. I recognize the need to take in those without homes during weather that could kill them without shelter and warmth. The buildings to be used for the Emergency Shelter program will no longer be available during the cold and wet seasons. Many individuals who are homeless are transient and cannot be served by the limited space available in the proposed Emergency Shelters during cold weather conditions.

The loss of the cold weather program will result in great harm to many people.

Support the year round Emergency Shelters, but please find a way to continue the Cold Weather Shelter program in some form that gives respite to those in need during cold weather days.

Michael Allen
Florence, Oregon
505-401-7762
mike.pat.allen@outlook.com

Lindsey White

From: Renee LoPilato <renee.lopilato@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 1:36 PM
To: Lindsey White
Subject: Written Testimony for City Council Meeting (8/14/23)

Thank you Mayor and City Council members for investing so much time and energy into thoroughly researching this proposal to start a Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter. And thank you for allowing all of us to voice our opinions, ask questions or make suggestions on this topic.

I listened carefully to your Aug. 3rd work session on this proposal and although many of my concerns and questions were dealt with satisfactorily, I do have the following comments for your consideration:

1. How many calls to law enforcement are projected to be generated by the new shelter based on the Coos Bay center numbers over the last few years of its existence? Do our local law enforcement officials consider those numbers to be reasonable within the scope of their finite resources?
2. Securing permanent housing in our community seems to be an important outcome for this shelter for both the newly hired staff and the residents transitioning out from the shelter. Do we have affordably priced housing units for these folks? Do shelter staff assist residents with securing this housing? What is the success rate for securing and keeping this housing over

each year based on the Coos Bay center stats since they began in 2018?

3. What happens if costs exceed those projected by the grant for either the site prep or the administrative/operating expenses? Is the city on the hook financially in any way?

4. Finally, I support starting this Emergency Shelter here in Florence and using our tax dollars to assist this population with a proven model to break the cycle of homelessness. If this new shelter can help 15, 20, 40 folks/year get off the streets, out of the woods and into a warm, safe and controlled environment, then it's that many less people roaming around in our community. We will all be safer.

5. This state/county \$500k grant, by its very nature, will impose many tightly regulated protocols on the whole process, so the impact on city staff should be minimal. There will probably be site visits by county or state officials to assess progress and keep the project on track; any issues will be identified and resolved before they flare up.

Assuming that the answers to my questions are all within reasonable limits, I encourage the Mayor and City Council to approve this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,
Renee LoPilato

410 Tournament Drive
Florence, Oregon

City Recorder

From: Rhonda Butler <rrbutler@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 7:56 AM
To: City Recorder
Subject: August 14 Special Meeting to discuss the proposed Emergency Shelter

To Mayor Rob Ward, Florence City Council and fellow citizens of Florence,

I am in favor of going ahead with the FECWS' Proposal for an Emergency Shelter. The Proposal seems to me a constructive plan for supporting people who want to live and work in our city and for various reasons need stable, temporary housing to make it happen. I think the Coalbank village in Coos Bay sounds like a good model to follow, and with the emergency funding from the State and additional funding from Lane County the Proposal becomes a feasible option to try.

Although the funding is estimated to cover start-up costs and operation for one year and future funding/success of the program is not assured, implementing this program for one year will allow us to see for ourselves what the pros and cons are and whether the program should be continued. To my mind the potential benefits to our community outweigh the potential risks.

The legal and social issues have been thoroughly covered in my neighbor and friend Jill Thomas' comments, and I would like it noted for the record that I agree with the points made and considerations raised in her written comments.

I would like to end on a personal note. I moved to Florence in 2005, and although as a long-time digital worker I did not need to find work here, finding a place to rent (and six years later a modest house to buy) seems miraculously easy compared to what it would be now. I feel so fortunate that my dream to live and work in Florence came true and I would like to support others who have that dream. Florence is a very giving community and I love that about it, but I think we can do something more to try to help people who are struggling. We cannot make homelessness go away by ignoring it and telling ourselves that everyone who lives in a car or a patch of forest does so by choice.

Thank you to all for taking the time to carefully consider this proposal.

Rhonda Butler

Lindsey White

From: Susy Lacer <SLWriting@live.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 3:28 PM
To: Rob Ward; Sally Wantz; Bill Meyer; Robert Carp; Jo Beaudreau; Lindsey White
Cc: Erin Reynolds
Subject: public comment in favor of proposed Emergency Shelter

Dear Florence City Council,

Thank you for your volunteer service on behalf of the City and our community. It is sincerely appreciated.

I am in support of the proposed Emergency Shelter to be owned by FECWS and managed by the Deveraux Center.

- The proposed emergency shelter will provide an option for local people who are unhoused, something our City currently lacks, and which limits the City's ability to enforce any no public camping/sleeping regulations.
- The Deveraux Center has two years' experience in successfully (42% of participants moving on to permanent housing) operating a very similar shelter, also located on the Oregon coast.
- To be able to build this needed emergency shelter for our community using one-time funding from the State, at an incredibly low cost to the City, is a valuable opportunity.
- If the City were to calculate the cost of its staff time/materials and supplies/services currently being used on interactions with people who are unhoused, the benefits of opening an emergency shelter - to be managed by an experienced professional organization - would be clear. If the City were also to collect that current expense data from partner agencies (WLFEA, PeaceHealth, etc.), the benefits would increase significantly.
- Florence is a compassionate, caring community. Building a well-run emergency shelter so that local residents with nowhere else to go can have a safe place to be, and help to get re-housed, will reflect the caring heart of our City.

Please. Let us not have any more human beings dying in a restaurant doorway because there is no other option in the City of Florence.

Thank you,
Susy Lacer
(City resident since 2006)

City Recorder

From: Taylor Kohn <taykohn@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 13, 2023 4:46 PM
To: City Recorder
Subject: In support of the emergency shelter for 8/14 meeting

Dear Florence city council members and leaders:

I'd like to voice my strong support for the proposed emergency shelter. Having worked for the department of human services for over 25 years I have a lot of experience in working with people experiencing hardships that lead to homelessness. The effects of trauma and family disconnection are factors in mental health, alcohol and drug addiction and homelessness. Inadequate education and economic stability further add to this societal problem.

Studies show that homelessness is greatly reduced when there are services such as those proposed by this new project. Being able to provide people with treatment, job services and caring case management will significantly reduce the numbers of our community members who are experiencing homelessness. Having a secure place to be warm, out of the elements and maintain dignity are essential.

Some people cite the condition of some of the larger cities that have overwhelming homeless populations. One of the mistakes some communities have made is not having shelters and centers that provide services. Many are starting to realize this, and are addressing the root causes and providing stability through shelters and services.

The fact that there is significant funding and support from the state and county makes it imperative that we act as a compassionate and caring community.

I am retired as a social worker, but I will definitely volunteer and be supportive as I know many other people will in our community.

I urge you to vote in support of the shelter, and in support of basic human dignity and kindness.

Sincerely,
Taylor Kohn
87806 Terrace View Dr.
Florence, Oregon

Sent from my iPhone

City Recorder

From: Tina Haydel <teenasan3@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 6:39 PM
To: City Recorder
Subject: Homeless shelter

Subject: Homeless shelter

To Florence City Council,

There has been a lot of misinformation circulating lately about homeless issues. I want to share the facts as I know them from working with the Cold Weather Shelter for the past five years. The Presbyterian Church, First Step and the Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter (FECWS) are all separate organizations. The primary location for the FECWS was originally at the Presbyterian Church. After covid hit Pastor Woods stepped down as chair of the FECWS and churches were no longer available as shelters. Because of this, First Step granted use of a portion of the three acres owned by First Step north of Fred Meyers to the FECWS. Funds and small shelters were provided as covid relief with the cooperation of the city, county and state.

FECWS, with Pat Burke as chair for the first two years during covid, worked in collaboration with First Step, the city of Florence, and many volunteers from the community to develop the site. At the end of this winter season, the First Step Board informed the FECWS of their plans to develop the property. This means FECWS needs to relocate. The shelter was open more than 80 days this past season and was usually full. This demonstrates the need for shelter.

After getting to know many of our "resident" homeless, I have come to understand that some, perhaps more than half, are engaged in some sort of substance abuse. For many, alcohol is their biggest problem. There are also mentally handicapped, socially awkward folks, and some are just a victim of circumstance. I have only found three or four people in my time with the shelter that I would consider truly dangerous. For these individuals we involved the police. Most of our guests are exhausted from being in the elements when they come to us. They shower us with gratitude and appreciate the meals and dry warmth.

I think the residents benefit from their time in a structured facility where rules, trash cans, and bathrooms are provided. The community benefits from this as well. Providing shelter helps protect the city from lawsuits. It also helps emergency services, and it is my understanding that if no shelters are provided the homeless can sleep in parks and other municipal areas.

I encourage the council to support a year round shelter with paid professional staff as presented.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Haydel

City Recorder

From: Tina Haydel <teenasan3@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 6:38 PM
To: City Recorder
Subject: Year round shelter for the homeless

This response is in support of a year round homeless facility as proposed to the city council. We have over 200 local homeless individuals who live in the area who will be given first consideration for the few spots available. Refusing this facility will only keep these individuals in the woods, not eliminate the problem. Having helped with the emergency cold weather shelter over the past five years, cooking food, cleaning the facilities and offering what support I can, I have met and interacted with many of the residents and found them to be overall polite, respectful, helpful when they are able, and caring toward one another for the most part. As an older female, I never felt threatened in any way, though I often delivered food alone at dark and helped to serve. In addition, a local resident who lives Munsel Creek Trail told us that there was much less trash on the trail when the shelter was open. The homeless have told us that there is no place where they can deposit their trash in town without being ticketed. Please consider the good that can result from establishing a welcoming community for those in need of shelter.

Respectfully,
Tina Haydel

Sent from my iPad

Section 2- Opponent Input

As of August 14th, at 3:30pm

City Recorder

From: S Battraw <sbattraw72@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 7:55 AM
To: City Recorder
Subject: 8/14 special meeting

Who would this house? I heard no families. Is this correct? If this moves forward, will this be a vote for taxpayers? If not, why not?

Sent from my iPhone

Lindsey White

From: Adanel Gorbett <adagorbett@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 12, 2023 4:53 PM
To: Lindsey White
Subject: Homeless Shelter in Florence Oregon is a TERRIBLE IDEA!

My family and myself have been homeowners in Florence for over 8 years. We moved from a big city, that had less taxes, and it has been an adjustment to the cost of living without adding in the element of additional tax draining endeavors. We all know that the homeless population is increasing because of many issues including but not limited to; drug use/addiction, a lack of motivation to work (due to the fact of all the government entitlements to be on the street) and the fact the Eugene and other metropolitan areas are bussing homeless to the coast literally by the bus load. We believe the shelter is not the proper solution but rather another crutch to enable those who are either unable (or more likely) unwilling to do their part in a functioning society. We have sympathy for those who are hit by hard times however the larger cities with a larger tax base already have the means and the programs in place to help them get on their feet and prosper...should they be willing to stay sober which is the largest issue and reason the fall out of these programs. We do pray about the situation and help people stricken by it on an individual basis but we do not feel it is appropriate or beneficial, to our community or to them, to enable the pattern of behavior that tends to prolong the homeless situation and this way of life, which is in many cases a choice.

Thank you,
The Gorbett family.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Lindsey White

From: Barbara Perez <summrof42@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 5:10 AM
To: Lindsey White
Subject: Homeless Shelter - Florence

To whom it may concern:

I have been a resident of Florence, owning my home located on Wild Winds Street, over the past six years. When learning of the possible approval of a Homeless Shelter here, I question the wisdom of doing so for the following reasons:

1). The average age of residents of Florence is 60.4 years of age. There is definitely, in my opinion, several reasons why people retire here; one of which is low crime rate.

One only had to watch the news showing the status of homelessness, in cities across America..... Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, New York, to name a few, and how dramatically they have been affected in a negative way, one being the rise in crime.

2). It is obvious that there is a shortage of job opportunities in Florence with no large corporations, factories, etc., not to mention a shortage of homes/apartments/condos to live if employed.

I assume one of the intent the intent of supplying a place with the intent of giving the homeless an opportunity to obtain employment, how is that possible with the already-low job How is it possible for the homeless to obtain a job in Florence

3). The Police Department, as is my understanding can barely, now, take care of what they have to handle with the population of 9,553 residents and statistics indicate that quite often the State Police are called in to help out.

4). I watch as the city of Florence fills with tourists on the weekends; and even more so during the exquisite months of summer. It is the city's main resource of income.

My concern for statement #2: There are hardly enough jobs available now for those seeking employment. How, can Florence

Sent from my iPhone

Lindsey White

From: Bruce Cochran <b.lcochran89@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 12:23 PM
To: Lindsey White
Subject: Emergency Shelter

We wish to express our disapproval of creating a year round emergency shelter in Florence. We do not believe Florence has sufficient resources, to dedicate, to maintain a permanent shelter. And why would Florence be slated for a shelter twice the size of that in Coos Bay which is a much larger community. Frequently programs to help the homeless turn out out to be an ever growing drain of a cities resources. Florence would need to be willing to dedicate monies on an ongoing basis to support the shelter in the future. Our businesses in town are still trying to rebound from the pandemic and continuing supply chain issues. They cannot be expected to contribute, through higher fees, to the city to help support this venture. We also do not support management by someone outside the community as well as the hurry up don't think twice approach to starting this program. As they said in the movie, Field of Dreams, "If you build it they will come" then what?

Bruce and Linda Cochran
Florence

Sent from my iPad

City Recorder

From: Cynthia Goldstein <cindygoldstein64@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 1:03 PM
To: City Recorder
Subject: Permanent Homeless Shelter

Dear City Council members,

Last evening after attending a movie here in Florence, I stopped at the grocery store which is in the same plaza as the theater. I was shocked, intimidated and frightened when I saw a man laying on the sidewalk where the baskets are kept. He was awake, but “not there”. This is not the first time I have seen people in this state, but because it was the night before the City Council meeting relative to building a permanent homeless shelter here in Florence, that I felt compelled to write you my feelings. Since I have no training to dealing with these situations, how can I feel comfortable thinking this situation will improve by simply building a permanent shelter that, incidentally, only addresses men as I was led to believe. What about homeless women and children, who need to be able to grow up into good and valuable citizens. Aside from that, would this man have even been capable of getting to a shelter and would he even care about getting to one? If a person has to be drug free to even enter a homeless facility, would this person, who was obviously high on drugs, even be allowed to get help there? I think this is a much bigger problem than homelessness. Is homelessness caused by drugs or alcohol or mental illness, or not being able to afford a home within their means? Will any of these new supposedly affordable, low income apartments currently being built afford any remedies to these homeless folks? And if people are choosing that lifestyle, is providing them a home the answer? What is my duty as a responsible citizen? I want to help, but is building this homeless shelter really going to help the homeless situation?

I believe something must be done as this “problem” is becoming more and more prevalent for whatever reason. Is building a permanent homeless shelter the answer? I don’t know, but I do know that if Coos Bay already has one built and running, wouldn’t it make more sense to divert the fund’s available for building here, down to Coos Bay so they can expand their facility. Yes I’m sure many people will say I’m a NIMBY person, but if we do build a shelter here, and Lane county funds it annually for only 2 years, where will the money come from to keep it running? And what if it is a failure and it doesn’t do what the people that are supporting it hope it will? This has happened to many projects undertaken. They are fully funded to begin with, then future maintenance gets forgotten as funds run out.

I know your job is not an easy one. So many questions, so few answers. Thank you for putting yourselves out there to make these decisions on our behalf. Please take these thoughts into your consideration when working through this issue.

Sincerely,
Cindy Goldstein

Sent from my iPad

City Recorder

From: Del Phelps <dphelps@bhhsnw.com>
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 4:54 PM
To: City Recorder
Subject: Proposed Emergence Shelter in North Florence

To;

Mayor and Councilors,

It appears that based on reporting by the Siuslaw News, Friday August 11th, that the proposed shelter will be located on City owned lot 18 12 14 20 TL500. It is in the North Florence Commercial District area and has only Highway 101 access. This location poses two challenges for the city. The first one is The lot is zoned "Land use 1111 Single Family Housing. The proposers are planning 21 palate shelters. I think that is 19 more families than the current zoning allows, one house and one ADU on a single lot. Why am I saying all of this? It, for me, is simply a matter of principle. The city should not allow itself or any other entity to do on its land anything that a privet party is not allowed to do. The city should require itself to go through the land use change processes it would require any privet entity to go through if they wanted to put 21 dwellings on one small single Family city lot.

Secondly, I am gravely concerned about the city taking on any project such as the one being proposed by dangling the carrot of \$500,000. to get the city to do the project, but there is no identified source of maintenance and operational funding after 2025. I hope the Council thinks long and hard about where that money will come from. It should not be from our tax dollars!

As a past 8-year city councilor,
I am thankful to still be around to testify on a matter as crucial as this is, with regard to city future finances!

Del Phelps,
92 Sailors Ravine Court,
Florence, Or. 97439
541-991-7787

Lindsey White

From: Dick Porter <dick@porter.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 13, 2023 6:06 PM
To: Lindsey White
Cc: Tomeny Terry & Winette; Christensen Len R.; Wright Mark
Subject: Comment For 8/14/23 Special Meeting re Proposed Homeless Shelter

To the members of the Florence City Council for consideration during the Special Meeting 8/14/2023:

My principal concern is the uncertainty of funding for the proposed homeless shelter past 2025, and the possibility that the citizens of Florence would be taxed to make up the deficit.

As I understand it:

- Lane County will provide approximately \$500K only for the next two years.
- These funds will be used to construct a facility, hire staff, operate the facility, purchase a vehicle, and pay for other expenses.
- The Lane County funding is programmed through 2025 and specific funding beyond that has not been identified either as to source or amount.

My concern is that once the facility has been constructed and put into operation, and the Lane County funding has dried up, and no additional funding sources can be found, continued funding of the facility will fall on the citizens of Florence. Florence is a small city with a population of less than 10,000 and a taxpayer population of significantly less than that. Continued funding of the facility through Florence taxes would place an unwelcome and onerous burden on the taxpayers who would receive NO direct benefit from these taxes. Further, the homeless individuals who are the beneficiaries of this largesse contribute little to nothing to the community in return. There are existing facilities for the homeless in Eugene that are funded, staffed and trained to deal with the homeless.

Recommendation: instead of accepting the Lane County funding with future funding not nailed down, do not build the proposed homeless shelter and instead, provide van transportation for these individuals from Florence to Eugene homeless shelters. Expenditure of Florence taxpayer funds to support transporting homeless to certified homeless shelters in Eugene would benefit both the homeless individuals and the citizens of Florence. Win-win.

Richard T. Porter
1053 8th Street
Florence, OR 97439
360-661-2169 cell

Mr. Mayor, Members of the Council, and City officials. We'd like to express our concerns for Constructing "Permanent Homeless Shelters" here in Florence, with opposition.

* Florence is experiencing a housing crisis, which in respects is a positive thing. Our city is a destination city, where thousands of tourists travel from all walks of life to enjoy the wonderful eateries and the scenic coastal attractions that it has to offer. The city currently enjoys a comfortable revenue from its local small businesses, tourism, and a retirement community, made up of nearly 43% of the population.

* Building Permanent Homeless Shelters will degenerate the Image and Ambiance of our fine City. Visitors will go elsewhere. Residents will either move to areas not affected by Homeless Shelters and bad policies, or suffer the consequences of attracting more crime, violence, drug abuse, over saturation of our already overburdened hospital services, to include police and fire resources. Small Businesses have already taken a hit from COVID, but increased homelessness and adding Shelters will close more businesses, and others will leave to cities that haven't made this unfortunate mistake. Our neighbors to the North, South and the East of us, have experienced a road to ruin with failed decisions made by their elected officials.

* As a real estate practitioner of 43 years here in Florence stated, it is their "sincere opinion that this proposal, if initiated, will definitely repeat the history of Portland, Seattle and San Francisco. Homelessness, wrecked vehicles, abandoned vehicles, and trash will only draw in more of the same. The experiment of enabling have a long history of evidence that

does not end well, such as devaluation of home properties and quality of life.”

* The city will risk losing their leverage on revenue. The proposed cite will gain zero in revenue, but expend \$5,000 per year in liability insurance. The State has earmarked \$637,000 towards this project’s start-up, which expires in January 2025. There is no guarantee the State will replenish these funds once they have been exhausted. Is it worth going "All-In" to lose our city, our tourism, and our retirement community, whom many have chosen Florence as their final destination?

* This proposal is "a not so good idea". There's too much to lose, and nothing to gain. On August 3, 2023, it was proposed that "Only Florence Homeless", also referred to as "Guests," will be eligible for a spot into the Shelters. That same proposal, on 2 separate occasions suggested "moving Guests" from shelters in Coos Bay, to Florence. The proposal also mentioned that the "Goal is to move "Guests" from "unsheltered to Affordable Housing". Our current housing shortage, over burdening our hospital, our Fire and Police Departments, and the fact that many of these homeless have Drug and Mental Health Issues, Florence just does not have the facilities or qualified professionals to address these issues. It will be nearly impossible to obtain such a goal. As per the Oregonian of February 21, 2023, nearly 90% of Homeless Portlanders swept from encampments are back on the streets; just 1% got permanent housing. The Washington Standard, dated August 6, 2023, headline news, “Stuck: Average Length of Stays in San Francisco Homeless Shelters Skyrockets”.

With variables yet disclosed, the logistics to successfully operate, manage and maintain this proposed shelter, will be yet another disappointing failure on the West Coast.

In the strongest terms, we oppose this plan.

Duane and Julia Sansome

Florence Seniors and Property Taxpayers

Veteran of The U. S. Marine Corps

Lindsey White

From: Elke Dodd <elkedodd@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 2:00 PM
To: Lindsey White
Subject: Permanent Homeless Shelter

I am against the permanent 21 unit homeless shelter as a tax paying long time resident of Florence.

Has anyone thought of the criminal aspect of bringing in even more homeless people than those who are already here? Offer free food and shelter, and they will come many with criminal intentions as we've seen in other cities. The city of Florence has a population of approximately 9,553. The number of homeless already here is not really known exactly, but the numbers are increasing consistently. Just drive down some of the streets and you'll see large numbers of motorhomes and trailers many in very poor condition, leaking oil, and trash piled up around them. Then there are the homeless who reside in tents, most of which also have trash piled up around them. Some homeless just live in the open with their belongings either in a backpack, trash bags, shopping carts, etc.

To invite more to come here is a huge mistake. There are 21 units available and from what I've seen, many are walking from all directions to Florence to possibly get one of these units. There is no doubt in my mind that the crime will skyrocket as the homeless population continues to grow. I know this from personal experience and also from friends who have had bad experiences with a few of the homeless. I have been attacked twice recently. Once a woman who was ranting and raving came running at my car and tried to get in as I was stopped at the exit of Safeway. She tugged at the handle of the passenger side door screaming obscenities the entire time. I was able to drive off quickly and relieved that she let go. The second time I was coming out of the Casino where a shirtless homeless man was spitting at me, shaking his fist and screaming things I couldn't even understand. A woman came over to see if she could help and we quickly walked to a nearby bench and sat down. I was definitely shaken by this as his fists were too close for comfort. A few more minutes passed and a security officer from the casino came out to address the situation. In yet another situation, a friend was chased by a homeless man who had a skateboard in his hand and was trying to hit him with it. I'm sure I'm not the only one who has encountered a violent homeless person in our town, just ask around. This will happen even more when the homeless population explodes in our town.

The more that come, the more crime it will bring. We've all seen the crimes committed in other cities with large homeless populations. Stores are closing because of theft and those that don't close lock up everything so it takes hours to get any shopping done. People are being robbed, beat up and seriously injured. God forbid some innocent retiree or any other tax paying resident gets killed at the hands of a mentally ill or drug addicted homeless person. I do have compassion for the homeless, but I also have compassion for our tax paying citizens who are now living in fear, afraid to leave their homes.

Respectfully,

Elke Dodd

Lindsey White

From: Jacquie Beveridge <beveridge.jacquie@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 12:19 AM
To: Lindsey White; Rob Ward; Sally Wantz; Jo Beaudreau; Robert Carp; Bill Meyer
Subject: Re: for distribution to Mayor Rob and the City Council

I'm unable to attend the meeting due to a statewide previously scheduled Zoom meeting.

Though I am not opposed to providing a hand-up, I believe there are criteria that need to be addressed and answered to the satisfaction of local taxpayers. **It's hoped that in two years we won't be pointing fingers and saying, "We told you so, and you didn't listen."**

There is no easy answer to this problem. Legalizing drugs did not help. Instead, it opened the door for many people who have decided that "I can use more frequently, or I can always keep it on my person," whereas before they were a little more discreet about it." And, with Oregon's liberal stance, it has invited drug users who know there won't be consequences.

Just in the last few weeks I've seen an increase in the number of apparent homeless. Especially a couple of them on Hwy 101. One was across the street from Krispy Krunchy Chicken loudly conversing with himself and tossing something into the shrubbery behind him.

Here are facts and my questions:

According to Lane County:

The total number of people experiencing homelessness has increased by 72% in the past 5 years. (The question not being asked is where they are from. Many have come into the area because they know handouts are available.)

FACTS: Devereux Center (Coos Bay)

- 80 beds
- Azalea Building was donated
- **Per Charity Navigator: 68% rating (2 star)** <https://www.charitynavigator.org/ein/930822406>
- Team of 20 providers come to the Navigation Center 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month including Doctor and Physician Assistant, Nurses, Clergy, Representatives from a multitude of service agencies ie Adapt, Coos Health and Wellness, Housing Authority
- Coalbank Village is a low-barrier 24-unit emergency shelter built and managed by the Devereux Center in Coos Bay with support from many community partners.

Proposal for Florence

- "Opportunity to bring to \$500k and new jobs into the Florence community."
- 30 bed shelter utilizing existing pallet shelters.

Questions:

- The diagram provided shows 21 shelters. How will those 21 shelters house 30 people?

- Since every business in town is in need of employees, what makes the council think these positions will be staffed?
- Though current statistics are not available, an article from The World newspaper showed there were 87 law enforcement calls in 2018 and 196 in 2019 in Coos Bay to the Devereux Center. Granted, they have more people there, but is our PD staffing adequate to respond to additional calls?
- Since our medical providers in Florence can't keep up with the current needs, how will current providers be able to meet additional needs?
- Are there statistics to support the success of "Addiction Recovery Centers?"
- What community partners will support such an endeavor here?
- What happens to funding after June 2025?
- Given the extreme delays in construction here, how can this be accomplished in the time frame that is proposed? Will the work be done by local contractors?
- A study shows that the presence of a shelter appears to cause property crime to increase by 56% within 100m of that shelter, with thefts from vehicles, other thefts, and vandalism driving the increase. Is the City of Florence prepared to increase law enforcement in this event? The cost to add one officer is \$46,000- \$100,000. Where do you expect those dollars to come from?

This shows there are currently 121 jobs open

here: <https://seeker.worksourcewa.com/jobsearch/PowerSearch.aspx?cy=us&where=Florence,Oregon&re=3105>

[https://www.koin.com/news/homeless/oregon-homeless-service-providers-report-trouble-making-ends-meet-](https://www.koin.com/news/homeless/oregon-homeless-service-providers-report-trouble-making-ends-meet-study/?fbclid=IwAR3AxD11_0ULmYtlhV1APw5L68wytYObXpeOQ7YlojnH9oaY6asltPupEXI)

[study/?fbclid=IwAR3AxD11_0ULmYtlhV1APw5L68wytYObXpeOQ7YlojnH9oaY6asltPupEXI](https://www.koin.com/news/homeless/oregon-homeless-service-providers-report-trouble-making-ends-meet-study/?fbclid=IwAR3AxD11_0ULmYtlhV1APw5L68wytYObXpeOQ7YlojnH9oaY6asltPupEXI) An important quote from this article, "The study found that 31% of homeless service providers felt they could pay for basic needs with their salary. Additionally, half of the employees that were surveyed said they were likely to look for a new job in the next year.

"The study revealed that compensation is low, especially for entry-level staff," the Joint Office said, reporting that the median annual salary of those surveyed was about \$46,000, with entry-level staff earning a median \$42,795.

Before the study was released, the Joint Office said it provided a 7% cost-of-living adjustment for most contractors in 2023, which will increase to 8% in 2024."

With the lack of affordable housing in Florence, where will the staff live?

Though I haven't been able to verify this, I've been told by two independent sources that our local Boys and Girls Club had funding cuts to support the homeless shelter.

I urge the City Council to get a grip and not just look at \$\$\$\$ coming in to get something started that the community isn't prepared to sustain.

Sincerely,

Jacquie & Larry Beveridge

--

"Dear is my country, dearer is liberty; where is liberty, there is my country." *A quote from my 9th great-grandfather, William Claiborne, when he was 8 years of age. (1608)*

Freedom is fragile. It is a gift from our Forefathers and can be lost in a generation.
~Ronald Reagan

Lindsey White

From: Jay Boelter <jay_boelter@charter.net>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 11:29 AM
To: Lindsey White
Subject: Permanent Homeless Shelter

I live on 52nd street in Florence. Retirees and families with small children live in this 27 home development. I have spoken to many of the residents and they are against the permanent homeless shelter so close to where we live. When the emergency homeless shelter is open we witness an increase in people with mental illnesses, alcohol and drug abuse problems, and garbage. The same problems will arise with a permanent shelter. We don't want it in our neighborhood. For those who think a permanent shelter is good for the community, I suggest locating it in their neighborhood.

Jay Boelter

Lindsey White

From: Jeannien Anderson <jeannien51@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 3:11 PM
To: Lindsey White
Subject: Permanent shelter

I live in the neighborhood where the temporary home shelter was built. We had an influx of people parking stay nights and days on Spruce Road and trash they left behind waiting to access the facilities. My neighbors and I would put on rubber gloves and pick up trash from underwear to drug paraphernalia. We often text the city code enforcer about these problems. It took several determined neighbors many trips to city hall to get signs placed with no overnight parking on it. The situation on Spruce Road has gotten better since and have appreciated it. We shouldn't have had to deal with any of this to begin with. And add permanent housing, how many people more peoples will hang out in our neighborhood waiting to access the facilities.

There is also safety concern and with no public transportation past Fred Meyer, that leaves people to walk along 101 with no street lights or safe cross walk. It is far away for people to access jobs or public services that they may need. These are my concerns about permanent housing in my neighborhood.

Sincerely

Jeannien Anderson
5226 Versant Dr

City Recorder

From: Jeff <photosong@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 4:12 PM
To: City Recorder
Cc: Lindsey White
Subject: New Homeless Shelter in Florence Concerns (Written Testimony)

Attn: Florence City Councilors

As long term resident homeowners of Florence for the past 22 years, we are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed additional permanent homeless shelter. We do care about those individuals who find themselves in situations that lead to homelessness but think the best remedy for this issue is helping them by providing essential services which address the root causes, such as mental health services, drug rehabilitation care and job training skills. Addressing the root causes would provide a better long term solution rather than simply building more shelters and enabling them to continue living in the same situations that led them to first become homeless.

We don't believe that enabling people to continue living in their current situation will benefit themselves or society unless those root causes which led them there are first addressed. Providing only shelters without the real help that they need, is truly not a compassionate approach.

Crime greatly increased when the current "First Steps" homeless shelter was opened just north of Fred Meyer. A former Fred Meyer employee of 15 years reported that the theft rate skyrocketed at their store, right after the "First Steps" shelter was opened. If only additional shelter housing is made available, we believe that the property theft crime rate will continue to spiral out of control.

We believe this will place an additional burden on our Florence police department and other community social services. Since Florence is a small town, we do not have the resources that are available to larger communities in order to meet the growing needs that an increasing homeless population will place upon our community. Since there are many vulnerable senior citizens living in Florence, having an increasing crime problem with a growing homeless population will also affect their safety.

Thank you for your time and considerations in addressing our concerns.

Sincerely,
Jeff & Jenny Dimmick

Lindsey White

From: larrykopka <larrykopka@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 9:18 AM
To: Lindsey White
Subject: HOMELESS SHELTER

We are writing to express that we are AGAINST the City of Florence's plan to provide a Homeless Shelter.

While we have compassion for those who are less fortunate, we feel that providing a homeless shelter targets our city for undesirable individuals to come here. This would create an open door to individuals who've learned to take advantage of systems set up to provide a way for them to live comfortably on taxpayers dollar's. Some people need temporary shelter, but others choose to live this way permanently. And once the word gets out, our beautiful and reasonably safe City will change. We would be inviting trouble! There will be more drugs and more crime, endangering seniors, our children and everyone in-between. And this will not only compromise our lives, but it will put an even higher burden on our law enforcement. We don't have enough police presence as it is now. What are you people thinking? How about a better way to safeguard our community? We're already providing housing for unfortunate women and children. We see the new housing complexes being constructed in several areas of our City. Our town council members seem to be far more concerned about growth and proving safe housing to the homeless than they are about taking care of the citizens who are already here. I see no plan for increasing our roads throughout town, nor increasing our law enforcement. So, our opinion on this matter is a resounding NO!

We ask you to consider all the above and decline this unreasonable plan.

Respectfully,

Larry and Georgia Kopka

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Lindsey White

From: Pamela Stimmell <outlook_24FDC24F4FD9D927@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 1:00 PM
To: Lindsey White
Subject: Oppose 24x7x365 Homeless Shelter in Florence

Please forward to all Councilors:

My name is Pamela Stimmell and I have lived here since 2016. When I moved here I did not see homeless parked on our streets and hanging out on the corners begging. I thought it was a great little retirement community. The people were friendly and welcoming. Today, the homeless are hanging out everywhere. A lot of them drugged out. I do not feel safe after dark even going to the grocery store. The crime rate has increased. Why are we considering a permanent shelter that is open 24x7 365 days a year in our little town. This would be a drain on our Police Department and social service resources already being provided. We can't even provide affordable housing for people who want to work or are working minimum wage jobs. Our home values would decrease, just look at Portland, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, to name a few.

The homeless (not all, but a majority of them) have drug, alcohol or mental health problems and need a lot more help than a small town can give. Florence already has good services for those in need along with providing transportation to larger towns with more resources. I am a retiree and can barely afford to take care of myself.

Our community is a vacation destination which our community needs to be able for our businesses to sustain the winter. Our town could lose our tourist income. We all struggle but I do not see how opening a permanent shelter in our small community is going to benefit those who really need assistance.

Thank you
Pamela Stimmell

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

City Recorder

From: Patricia Rhodes <pirho16@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 12, 2023 1:05 PM
Subject: PROPOSED EMERGENCY SHELTER

We are absolutely against this! This would give the feds an excuse to dump busloads of illegals here in the city of Florence, we do not need that. Why would this Council be a part of something that would bring about the destruction of Florence?

Vote NO!

Patricia Rhodes
Gordon Rhodes
541.997.9190

City Recorder

From: PaulC Nomad1500 <takemine617@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 4:14 PM
To: City Recorder
Subject: The city leaders should be ashamed

The leaders of Florence have sold their souls to the socialists. The socialist policies are destroying this city. They are constantly promoting social programs to get votes and are turning their backs on the law abiding, tax paying, citizens they are supposed to represent. They are developing low-cost housing, which I guarantee will be drug slums within 5 years. Where are all those people supposed to work? Now they are promoting homeless housing which will only attract more homeless, creating worse homeless problems. This is what happens when you cater to human weakness.

You should truly be ashamed for turning your backs on us.

Paul Cunningham
402-619-1076

City Recorder

From: Rebecca Lacroix <lacroixprops@att.net>
Sent: Monday, August 7, 2023 1:38 PM
To: City Recorder
Subject: Emergency Shelter

I Watched the Emergency Homeless Shelter presentation online and I'm wondering why the 2 women from Coos Bay are trying to put a Rehabilitation Homeless Center here?. We are not the city with a homeless problem...They are. They need to take care of their own problem before they bring their problem here?

We drove through the parking lot of the Devereux Center in Coos Bay this past Saturday. It was pretty sad. There were several people loitering in the parking lot with belongings in grocery carts and they were smoking cigarettes. Where do they get the money for smokes when they are \$10. a pack???

I've lived here in Florence for 5 years and I haven't seen but 2 homeless guys camping in the bushes on the corner of 101 and 126 and I wrote the city about it. Where are these 200 - 300 homeless Florence people that they talk about? I don't see them. If you build this rehabilitation shelter then we will see them. I also heard they bus homeless into Florence from Coos Bay and Portland and Lincoln City. Is that true?

My mother divorced my dad when I was 4 years old. She brought up her 3 daughters on her own. She got a hairdresser's license and fixed people's hair until she was 90 - when she retired. She never got a hand out from the government. She never drank, smoked or gambled. She died a millionaire !!!! If she can do it then anyone can do it.

Most of the homeless are addicted to drugs or alcohol and don't want to get better. Watch the video " Seattle is dying?"

I'm not heartless and wish the best for these people - but there have been treatment facilities around this country for decades...Do they really work? My younger sister was in a drug addiction program in a shelter in Medford several years ago. When she got out she told me that she could get any drug she wanted in there... REALLY????

Have you watched the commercials on TV - 80% of them are drug commercials. "ASK YOUR DOCTOR" - Sound familiar? I have a list of over a hundred drugs I've written down over the years of all the drugs that the pharmaceutical companies advertise every day.

The Government is allowing all this nonsense. Then they act like they are here to fix the problem that they have created. Don't let the Dollar signs get in the way of your common sense.

VOTE NO - Don't allow Tina Kotek and her Emergency Homeless executive order take over this little city of mostly retired people. We have worked hard all our lives and moved here to enjoy this darling Beach City. Build it and they will come.

I know this DEI is the new way the Govt wants us to go...Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Should Be DIE because if you follow that program this city will DIE...

God Bless-

Rebecca LaCroix

City Recorder

From: Rebecca Lacroix <lacroixprops@att.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 13, 2023 8:59 AM
To: City Recorder; Lindsey White
Subject: Fw: Emergency Shelter

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Rebecca Lacroix <lacroixprops@att.net>
To: cityrecorder@ci.florence.or.us <cityrecorder@ci.florence.or.us>
Sent: Monday, August 7, 2023 at 01:37:33 PM PDT
Subject: Emergency Shelter

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God Bless-

Rebecca LaCroix

Lindsey White

From: Sally Wantz
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 10:19 AM
To: Erin Reynolds; Lindsey White
Subject: Fw: Proposed Homeless Shelter

FYI

Sally Wantz

City Councilor

sally.wantz@ci.florence.or.us

www.ci.florence.or.us/covid19

City of Florence

250 Hwy 101

Florence, OR 97439

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From: Richard JARVIS <brucejarvis@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 5:30 AM
To: Bill Meyer; Rob Ward; Sally Wantz; Robert Carp; Jo Beaudreau
Subject: Fw: Proposed Homeless Shelter

For the following reasons I urge the City Council not to approve the proposed homeless shelter.

Funding has a limited time for acceptance which does not allow for careful impact review.

As stated at the August 3rd work session housing will be limited to adults only. Which leaves no provision for parent/child needs.

Facility will consist of 21 units with a projected stay of six to nine months per resident. This does not seem to support the claim it will have a major impact on the homeless population here in Florence since the official homeless count is 347 and growing.

It was also claimed the facility located North of town would keep the homeless out of the tourist areas. With only 21 units this is not true just check the bus stops on any given day.

At the August 3rd work session, it was stated staffing would be from Florence area but as reported in the Siuslaw News the management and staffing of the Florence facility will be controlled by the Devereux Center based in Coos Bay.

It was also claimed they did not anticipate any increase in the homeless population from outside the area. This is wishful thinking. Perception becomes a person's reality and as reported by Bob Teter of Siuslaw Outreach Services Coos and Lincoln counties are bussing homeless into our area

as they believe SOS has more capability to handle the homeless population. It is reasonable to believe when the word gets out "Florence has a new Homeless Shelter" there will be an influx of homeless folks.

I have lived in the Florence area for over 34 years. I have seen our community recover from a dying timber and fishing economy and grow into a strong tourist and retirement economy. I agree we need to deal with the homeless problem but this is not the answer. Act in haste and regret at leisure.

*Respectfully Submitted
Richard Bruce Jarvis
541/999/8145*

City Recorder

From: rodney stowe <rlstowe462@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 5:43 PM
To: City Recorder
Subject: Homeless project

IN SUMMARY: WE ARE DEFINITELY AGAINST THE PROJECT. IT APPEARS THAT A COMPANY THAT MADE INROADS IN COOS BAY WANT TO EXPAND HERE.

OBJECTIONS:

A. I AM A RETIRED LICENCED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER WITH 40 YEARS OF DEALING WITH THESE SITUATIONS. MOST OF THE HOMELESS PASSING THROUGH FLORENCE ARE DOING WHAT THEY WANT. THEY PREFER CAMPING RATHER THAN AN ORGANIZED REGIMENTED PROGRAM. MOST OF THEM ARE ON SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY (ALCOHOL AND DRUGS). THEY HAVE MONEY AND BANK CARDS TO GO ALONG WITH THE CELL PHONES.

B. THE " TRAVELERS " ARE PASSING THROUGH. PEOPLE WHO ARE LOCAL AND IN NEED...DO NOT NEED A PROGRAM LIKE THIS...THEY NEED LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND SUBSIDIZED HOUSING/UTILITIES/FOOD. THIS IS NOT A GET OUT OF POVERTY PROGRAM.

C. I WAS THE MASTER OF THE MASONIC LODGE WHEN WE STARTED THE COLD WEATHER PROGRAM 8 YEARS AGO. EVERYONE WHO IS A BLEEDING HEART WANTS TO PREACH HOW MUCH THEY CARE, BUT AT MIDNIGHT WHEN THERE IS A PROBLEM...I WAS THERE ALONE. THEY WERE AT THEIR GATED COMMUNITIES WITH WHITE WINE. ALL OF THE COLD WEATHER CLIENTS WERE FUSSY ABOUT THE FOOD, HAVING TO GET UP IN THE MORNING AND WORRIED SOMEONE WOULD STEAL STUFF FROM THE CAMPSITE THAT THEY DID NOT WANT TO RELINQUISH.

.D. HAVING REFORMED TRAVELERS, MENTAL HEALTH CLIENTS AND STREET PEOPLE BE THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF IS JUST PLAIN STUPID. STAFF LIKE THAT WILL NOT MAINTAIN ORDER, DISCIPLINE, SECURITY OR SAFETY FOR THE COMMUNITY.

E. WE HAVE SEVERAL APARTMENT BUILDINGS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION FOR INDIGENT / HOMELESS PEOPLE WITHIN HALF A MILE OF THIS PROPOSED PROGRAM ALREADY. PLUS THE COLD WEATHER PROGRAM. THE PROGRAM MENTIONS THAT THIS PROJECT WILL KEEP THE HOMELESS AWAY FROM PAYING TOURISTS, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE TAX PAYING RESIDENTS IN THE AREA. THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF HOMES WITHIN A HALF MILE OF THIS PROPOSED PROGRAM.

IN SUMMARY: THIS IS A VERY BAD IDEA THAT DOES NOT ASSIST FLORENCE IN ANY WAY. IT WILL CAUSE PROBLEMS. THE NORTH SIDE OF FLORENCE WILL DETERIORATE AND SCARE OFF BUSINESS. ALL THIS BECAUSE THE CITY IS SEDUCED BY INSTANT CASH.

ROD AND LINDA STOWE
FLORENCE

City Recorder

From: Ron Jameson <ljandhim@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 11:09 AM
To: City Recorder
Subject: FECWS Emergency Shelter

To whom it may concern:

This is in regard to our opposition to the proposed emergency shelter in Florence.

Our concerns are:

1. We strongly agree with the concern of bring more homeless into Florence increasing impacts on our properties, businesses, tourism and health issues associated with hygiene garbage. This would not be solved by 30 beds with an influx of perhaps hundreds.
2. When the funds run out in 2025 where does the burden fall but to the people and tax payers of Florence, not Eugene who have their own problems with this issue. It was also stated that Florence's shelter would benefit from possible funds from Lane County. It is good to hope the funds will be found but if not the large population of retirees in Florence will feel the impact.
3. If the shelter is actually to help individuals become a productive part of society will they need to find work and become independent or just have a safe place to live without responsibilities? There are businesses constantly looking for help even in our small community.
4. Would not these funds better serve the mentally disabled and drug addiction programs?
5. Who actually screens prospective inhabitants? To the questions they asked individuals in the article, all answered in a positive response, why would anyone answer in negatively? Is there a probation time? How can you do a background check on someone with no address or identification? The police are very helpful and appreciated by us but have little or no information on individuals coming from other areas. I understand the local residents and older people would have priority but the safety issues still exist.
6. We strongly disagree with the statement that the the majority of homeless do not choose to be. This may be true of the FECWS people that were interviewed but again it is in their best interest to respond positively. The mentally ill need professional help not just a warm bed and if this is a large part of the homeless population as we have heard in the past, let us address that problem in a correct manner.
7. It is our opinion that those who choose to be homeless have no responsibilities, have many programs for food, have no regard for other's property or health concerns related to their living conditions. This is their choice but those of us who worked hard most of our lives and take pride in ourselves and home do not choose to live with these conditions.
8. Why should our neighbors and businesses be responsible for disposal of garbage, biohazards and other debris left by this population? This is not an isolated incident as we have seen evidence of this throughout the state, even parts of Salem are unapproachable due to the garbage and stench. This is a financial hardship on the community as a whole and our businesses who rely largely on tourism. I would not come here as a traveler if these conditions were prevalent and the influx of this population would increase with free shelters.
9. In the article it is stated by Tara Johnson that there is nothing that says they couldn't have a contract with PeaceHealth so someone would not be discharged to the street. Why is this not already addressed and given priority to help these individuals who obviously need help over someone who walks in and wants to stay. This is an acute concern, not one that can be estimated ahead of time.

We do feel compassion for the people who need help but providing a facility with no real plans for the future but resting on hope is not the answer. Fund existing programs for those who need real help expanding those facilities and staff makes more sense. There are a large number looking for a free handout as that population continues to grow when work is available to those who want it. As far as a residence requirement is needed, how is it that so many of these individuals have cigarettes, cell phones and animals? This is not the minority of homeless.

Please vote against this proposal.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

DR. RUSS PIERSON • FLORENCE, OREGON

August 12, 2023

Mayor Ward
Councilors Wantz, Meyer, Beaudreau & Carp
City of Florence
250 Highway 101
Florence, OR 97439

Dear Mayor Ward and Esteemed Councilors:

As a Florence resident, long-time member of various iterations of the Florence Community and Economic Development Committee, and chair of the City's recent Housing Implementation Plan Stakeholders Advisory Team (HIPSAT) that brought together a diverse, remarkable group of residents, consultants, and subject matter experts to consider code-based steps toward long-term solutions to persistent housing issues, I want to thank you for your care and diligence as you consider the FECWS proposal for an emergency shelter.

You will know that the HIPSAT formed three workgroups to delve deeper into especially complex topics, including one focused on transitional housing. As described in the work session on August 3, the proposal for a permanent emergency shelter is an adjacent topic, and the seeds for code-based guidance may be found in the HIPSAT work product.

I am a fan, a former board member (and board chair) of the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce, and I appreciate their recent effort to encourage thoughtful consideration, to "look before we leap" into the thorny problem of homelessness that has dashed many good intentions in cities throughout Oregon. At the same time, I am sensitive to the plight of many houseless people in our community and aware that this extra funding available to launch a program to help has a definite expiration date.

Therefore, I suggest you consider forming a short-term team (and you might do well to start with the HIPSAT's Transitional Housing workgroup) to provide you with a clear-eyed report outlining the possibilities and pitfalls before the deadline for this funding stream so you can make an informed decision. A long "economic impact study" will mean we miss out on this funding opportunity by default. We have the tools, the team, and just enough time to do better, and thread the needle between our common concerns and compassionate hearts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Pierson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Russ Pierson

City Recorder

From: R R Wymore <russellwymore@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 2:02 PM
To: City Recorder
Subject: Permanent Homeless Shelter

I am writing for OPPOSITION to any permanent homeless shelter in the Florence area.

We have MANY other problems in Florence that need to be addressed before this such as housing, crime, and traffic congestion!

If any funds should be spent in Florence on social causes, it should be for more POLICE to enforce property crimes and traffic control!.

Sincerely
Russell Wymore
Florence

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

City Recorder

From: Sharron Lewis <sharrons_rn@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 1:53 PM
To: City Recorder
Subject: Emergency Homeless Shelters

1. Please say NO to the shelters. Portland and San Francisco have spent millions upon millions and are not better off.
2. The words “urgent” and “emergency” are over used and over stated. You want me to be charitable? Leave some money in my pocket and let me pick the charity.
3. When the state steps in and says it will provide the help... that means me. I pay state taxes, too.
4. I understand “Helping Hands and SOS...etc.” being for this. It is their project. I would like the freedom to pick mine.
5. There is no more money, at least not for me. But, then government agencies don’t need to worry about this as they just dig deeper into mine.
6. There is no such thing as using this to create jobs. Just more jobs paid by the government, this includes our City government. Try cutting some of the red tape and encouraging our citizens to start businesses and/or make a living for themselves.
7. I am a retired RN. I have worked ICU, and rural Home Health and Hospice here in Oregon. There is more than one side to the story of homelessness. They are a culture unto themselves. A lot of drug issues and mental illness which is sometimes too hard to figure out which came first. They have burnt out the use of their families and friends. They will burn the rest of us out, too.

Thanks, Sharron Lewis Florence City resident.

City Recorder

From: Verla Thomas <verla_thomas@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 3:12 PM
To: City Recorder
Subject: Year round homeless

To Whom It May Concern

I live here, have for 3 yrs. In that short time I have noticed a huge increase in homelessness. I have direct experience with this population. The problem isn't that they are homeless. The majority choose this lifestyle. Nobody telling them what to do. No rules to follow. They don't need money nor want the responsibility of a job. Yesterday at my doctors office in Coos Bay, I asked her if she has seen a decline in this population with the Deverue funds. Her response " absolutely not' she also told me that homeless people are now in rural areas and felt her home was being cased out. All the money the government wants to use for "help' it's just not going to happen. I know homeless people and I know they have been offered help. Just don't want rules and restrictions.

Please don't pass this, for the safety and beauty of our town. Pass on this incentive.

Verla Thomas

City Recorder

From: Walt Nichols <walt.nichols@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 2:23 PM
To: City Recorder
Subject: homeless housing

Dear Florence city council members.

I recently moved to this wonderful city. I want to caution you on the homeless housing project that is being short funded by the state of Oregon. The ugly lack of funding we will experience

my experience as past chair of a Portland city Charter neighborhood association, population 7973,

plan on increasing the Florence police funding by a million dollars. With a added increase needed for our fire department as many of the fires currently in Portland are from homeless campers in tents and RV.

we clearly lack social services support with drug addictions, medical support, mental health care, ambulance availability, along with extra police support for violence and criminal behavior.

the hidden cost to business like safeway and fred meyers as happened in portland. we lost safeway and Fred meyer and walmart in my neighborhood due to the added theft and nuisance criminal behavior with all three closing the stores.

Portland has spent literally a billion dollars trying to address this issue that should be only address by the full on going guarantee funding to the counties, being fully funded by the federal government to the state for the county to fully fund.

word will get out we have a homeless housing compound, my prediction we will see around two thousand homeless come to Florence by bus from Eugene and other parts of the united states. the vast majority of homeless in Portland I have spoken with are not from Oregon.

I encourage to vote No. sure it will make everyone feel warm and fuzzy, but the cost to our community livability will be huge.

If you have any Questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Walt Nichols
3676 Oceanview Dr
Florence Or

503-490-1677

Lindsey White

From: Ada Fowler <adafowler2470@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 12, 2023 12:21 PM
To: Lindsey White
Subject: 24X7X365 Homeless Shelter in Florence

To All Florence City Councilors:

I have been a resident of Florence for twenty-three years. My experience living here has been positive. Florence has proven to be a caring community full of compassionate citizens. As such, there is a concern for our homeless population. I have friends that are homeless. I join with others in seeking ways to support them with a hand up rather than a handout. Improvement is underway, one step at a time.

I worked with homeless students in support services at a technical college in Lakewood, Washington for several years. Our goal was to encourage students to become self-sufficient, not to reinforce living in cars or on the streets. There was a productive response in our effort to shine the light of hope for the future into their lives.

I am diametrically opposed to establishing a homeless shelter in Florence. I certainly agree that there should be a solution to the needs of people who find themselves without access to the basic necessities in life such as shelter, food, and clothing. It is evident that many communities have sought answers to assisting the homeless in their midst with little success. Large amounts of taxpayer dollars have been invested in sustaining individuals to continue a hopeless lifestyle to no avail such as Oakland, California where the homeless population has grown to ten thousand people. Should our progressive uplifting city go down this same path? No, certainly not. As in the past, our community must come together in a substantive way to lead the effort in building a positive framework for the homeless to gain a foothold moving toward healthy living.

America has risen to the task to enable those who needed a hand up in past decades. We can do it again in our present generation. I would welcome the opportunity to be part of a reasonable response for a solution to the needs of the homeless in Florence. Let's work together with your leadership and our citizenry to come alongside our homeless counterparts.

Respectfully,
Leland and Ada Fowler

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Section 3- Neutral Input

As of August 14th, at 3:30pm

Lindsey White

From: Jennifer French <jpfrench5450@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 10:15 AM
To: Lindsey White
Cc: Jennifer French
Subject: My second attempt to express my thoughts this morning...

I put this on a form and sent it through the city website at 10:00 a.m. this morning. But, want to repeat myself here, in case you didn't receive the first one..

I've tried every link you've posted for the City Recorder and none of them work this morning.

At least this form comes up, and I can express my feeling(s) about the UNhoused issue being discussed tonight. I have listened and HEARD much of the discussions regarding what our city is 'steeped'-in right now and I have two gut reactions. First, I see both sides to this issue and can empathize with both. I commend our City for wanting to spend the special grant money to move forward on this project. I understand it's NOT coming out of 'our' citizens' pockets.

*I would love to hear some of the solutions that SO many seem to have, by saying "NO" to helping our communities' homeless. I would appreciate hearing the POSITIVE ways that those people suggest to help solving our homeless problem. I'm open to their suggestions and for their assistance. I think we all probably have heard all about this new 'project' and how it would be set-up, coordinated and worked-through. I don't think anyone of us have really heard any **good and constructive ways** from those who are so-totally-against helping our homeless. Please share with us how you intend to help with this issue in our town. And please don't say, "Ship them all to Florida or Texas." And certainly, "Just ignore them" **certainly won't make it all go away.***

Thanks for listening,

Jennifer French

Florence, OR

City Recorder

From: Mary Macdonald <marymacdonald17@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 1:51 PM
To: City Recorder
Subject: Written Comments for tonight's City Council Special Meeting

The following are my comments regarding the homeless encampment City Council is considering at their meeting on August 14, 2023:

1. Security for the homeless encampment should be provided by the homeless people sheltering there. Each adult individual or one adult from each family unit shall serve as unarmed security with radios to communicate with the paid staff member on duty.
2. There should be a firm rule of no drugs or alcohol consumed while staying at the encampment. Being drunk or under the influence of drugs or alcohol found in the resident's quarters would be grounds for immediate eviction.
3. Each individual or each family should have their own lockable quarters, which would include a lock inside for security while sleeping and a lock on the outside for security of belongings when resident is not in their quarters.
4. No money should be spent on a van to transport residents. Homeless people are used to walking and there is a local public bus service in Florence. This grant money should be used very frugally to improve the encampment.
5. Agree the homeless encampment should be fenced. There should be land outside the fence reserved for off street parking for the paid staff member and some homeless resident cars.
6. Porta potties and outside hand washing stations should be used for restrooms. ADA porta potties do exist. There exist portable trailers with multiple individual shower stalls/dressing cubicles. One should be purchased or leased for this encampment. Leases should include maintenance.
7. The quarters should be military tents on a waterproof foundation; I am sure very sturdy ones are available from military supplier companies. Stick built structures are too expensive for a place to sleep and keep the individual's belongings secure.
8. One modular or trailer kitchen for group or individual cooking could work, with picnic tables for eating in a separate large tent. The cleanup of the kitchen trailer and the eating tent would be done by the residents on a rotating basis.
9. To save money, there should only be one paid staff member on duty for a nine hour shift, 3 shifts a day with the one hour overlap, for communication between shifts.

Notes to the City Councilors: I got the first three ideas above from a documentary about a successful homeless camp in a big city, which remained so safe that families with children were comfortable there. No alcohol and no drugs will be critical: those who wish to continue with their addictions can go fend for themselves.

Thanks for considering these ideas.
Mary MacDonald
3720 Pine St.
Florence, Oregon

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