

Bureau of Zoning Adjustment

RE: Opposition to Application 19450

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in opposition to Application 19450.

First and foremost I want to emphasize the fact that I am not opposed to the concept of addressing the issue of homelessness by providing programs within each ward, however as Ward 3 resident I oppose the Application 19450 for the following reasons:

Dual use of the property: This particular property houses a critical police station with significant responsibilities to our city and our neighborhood. I think it is unwise to place any other major facility on this property.

Size and height of the proposed facility: The proposed building will tower over the neighboring houses and will permanently change the character of this neighborhood. The very same neighborhood where the city request excessive permits in order to preserve its unique character now calls for a massive building to stretch through the block surrounded by single family homes.

Parking: Traffic and parking along the Idaho Avenue are already difficult and contested. Most evenings there are multiple cars parked on the grass in front of the police station. So far we have not seen a detailed plan on how this will be addressed and improved during the construction phase. There is a strong concern that this congestion will hinder police operations and be a major disruption for the neighborhood.

Lack of clarity on how this program will benefit communities: (both the transitional community and current home and business owners): While the city keeps using words such as “bold” new approach to combat homelessness it actually provides no proof that this approach works. The city seems to be ready to fund a large-scale project without doing much testing on how well this approach works or how effective it is in combating and eradicating homelessness. There is no pilot program that was launched to work out the details and challenges for the transitional community.

To have a city funded project that hasn't even passed the threshold of proving that this concept works or at least being able to communicate some of the expected shortcomings for different stakeholders seems to be poorly thought out plan.

Furthermore the plan relays on future collaboration from the community and yet there is very little effort to include the same community in any decision making prior to implementation. We simply don't know what are the pros and cons of this building.

In fact just skimming through crime statistics on the Metropolitan Police Department website for the 1500 foot radius around the new Ward 2 shelter, the numbers are very troubling. Total crime in the roughly year before the shelter opened was 724 incidents compared with 1041 in the year after opening.

According to the January 31 presentation by the city at the local ANC meeting the city claimed to have not looked at crime statistics for their shelters. Yet another testament to the lack of work conducted during preparation phase, testing and piloting this approach before funding a large-scale

project that may or may not work.

Due to the above listed issues and not excluding any unforeseen circumstances that may arise in connection to the proposed building I worry about the effects on my neighborhood and do not think that at this point in time the city has made a solid case and justification to amend zoning code in order to accommodate the proposed building.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I appreciate your service to our city.

Sincerely,

Adela Petrovic

Ward 3 resident