From: Cole Feeback
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Proposed homeless shelter near Missoula Cemetery/Northside
Date: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:09:41 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing this letter in regards to the proposed homeless shelter on the Northside and Scott street part of town. It goes without saying the homelessness in Missoula has been an ongoing issue for sometime now. I'm sure on your end it's difficult to make/propose ideas and exhausting all resources to keep everybody in Missoula happy. The sad reality I see here is this is not helping with making a sustainable place for people like myself and many others to raise a family. I'm sure you've heard this sentiment more times than you can count, but it's the truth. As a resident and once an employee of a business near the Poverello center, I picked up needles regularly around the building premises. I threw away trash and sprayed human waste off of the building and work vehicles. I called the police a number of times to get people "moving along" so myself and fellow employees could proceed with our work day. Lastly, I watched a mother and her kids ride on their bikes off the California street bridge as they passed a tangled mess of half-naked, clearly passed out and intoxicated individuals. The look from the children's faces was enough for me and accurately depicted the situation. From my perspective, they looked dead until one moved as I passed by. I can only imagine what the kids were thinking.

Granted, I have dealt with a share of friendly individuals who have fell on hard times and have had to endure some terrible circumstances. I would be soulless to not feel for these people, but my worry is not with them. What of the hostile and unpredictable transients? This is what I fear the most and for those that have been confronted know exactly what I'm talking about. It's one thing to have it happen along Broadway or downtown, but it's another in my own backyard with my young daughter present. Because of these unpredictable and hostile individuals, it is simply not a risk worth taking.

I believe at this point, you get the picture. As a resident born and raised in western Montana, I also would love to be able to somewhat give my child the same upbringing I had prior to this matter. Placing a shelter on the Northside is taking an issue similar to the one downtown and the Poverello Center but instead, unleashing it on an entire neighborhood where who knows what may happen. With that being said, I can only imagine the foot-traffic between the Poverello and this other development. It's a recipe for disaster and nothing I want my family to witness. Please take my words and others like mine into consideration. I know I'm just another "not-in-my-backyard," but this development needs to be placed elsewhere where families and businesses are not directly affected. Otherwise, you're going to lose the lifeblood of this entire community as we get pushed out and Missoula becomes like the rest of the west coast.

Thanks for your time,

Cole Feeback

Sent from my iPhone