




Relocation of Adult Homeless Shelter


from 64 College Avenue to 89 College Avenue

Neighborhood Meeting Presentation | July 10, 2024

Welcoming

- **Thank you for Attending:**
 - Neighbors
 - Presenters and Panelists
 - Live Stream to Watch Tonight's Meeting on Zoom - Link at www.shcinc.org
 - **Thank you for the Community Space:**
 - Pastor David Lee, Somerville Community Baptist Church
 - **Purpose of Meeting**
 - **Introductions**
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Introductions

- Lance Davis
Ward 6 Councillor
 - Mike Libby
Somerville Homeless Coalition, Executive Director
 - Sebastien Gagnon-Cimon
Somerville Homeless Coalition, Board Vice President
 - Hannah O'Halloran
Somerville Homeless Coalition, Director of Homeless Svcs.
 - Rev. Jenn Macy
First Church Somerville, Lead Pastor
 - Hannah Ferello
First Church Somerville, Moderator
 - Katjana Ballantyne
City of Somerville, Mayor
 - Karin Carroll
City of Somerville, Health and Human Services Director
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Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Opening Remarks
- Who is Somerville Homeless Coalition?
- Purpose & Timing of the Relocation
- Neighbor Communications
- Need for Increased Shelter Capacity
- SHC/FCS Long-Standing Partnership
- Homeless/Housing Crisis in Somerville
- Committed to Neighbor Relations
- Who are our Homeless Neighbors?
- **Questions & Answers**

Lance Davis

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne

Mike Libby

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Rev. Jenn Macy


Karin Carroll

Hannah O'Halloran


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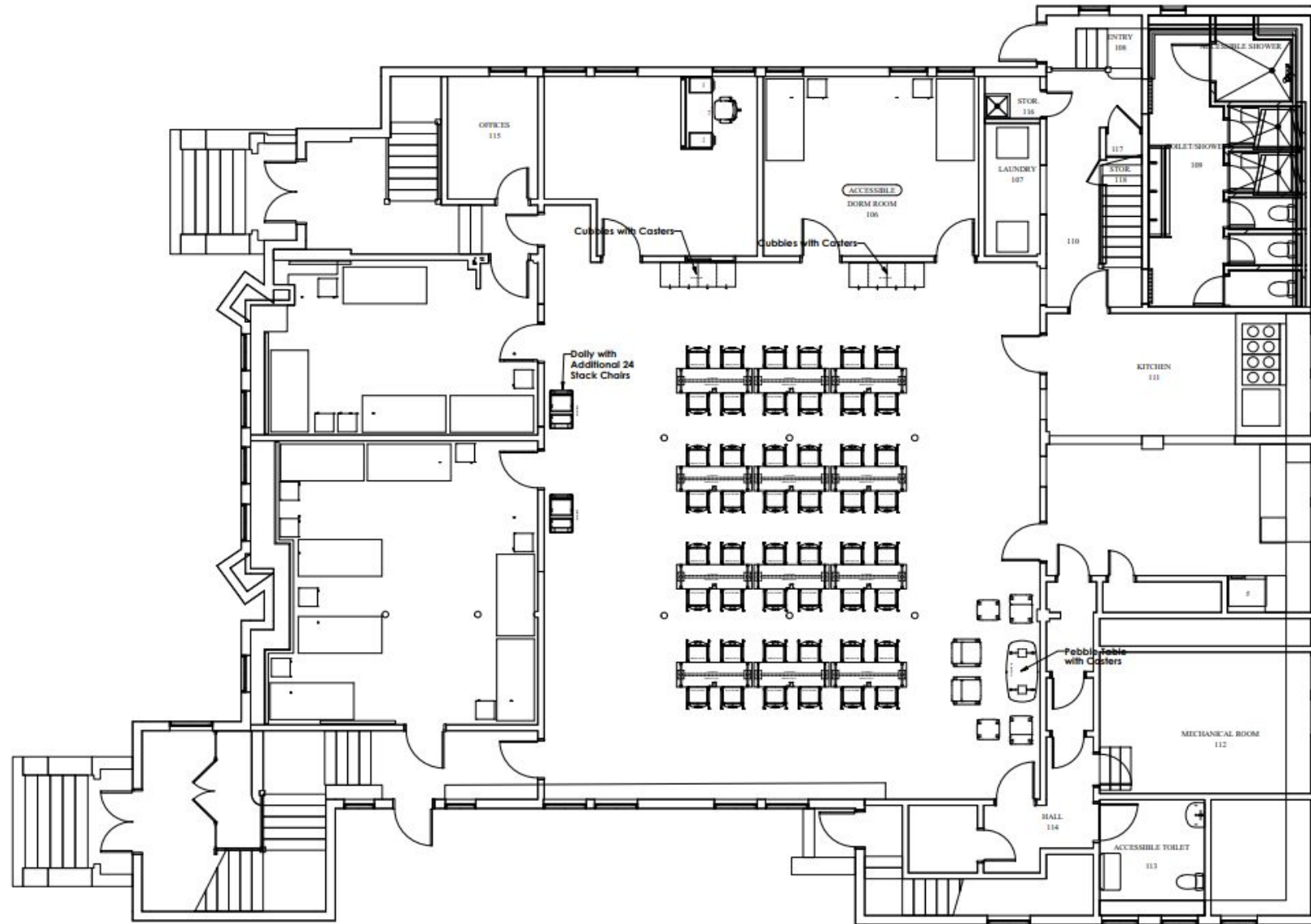
Neighbors and Panelists

Who is Somerville Homeless Coalition?


- **Our Mission**...to provide homeless and near homeless individuals and families with individualized supportive services and tailored housing solutions with a goal of obtaining and maintaining affordable housing
 - **Our Wrap-Around Services**
 - **Emergency Response programs:** Street Outreach, Day Drop-In Engagement Center, Overnight Shelter, Housing Search/Case Management and Project SOUP Food Pantry
 - **Stabilization programs:** Homelessness/Eviction Prevention & Permanent Supportive Hsg.
 - **Our Reputation**
 - Consistent Neighborhood Presence & Collaborator
 - 64 College Ave Adult Shelter longest-operating program
 - Committed to serving the City's most vulnerable, unhoused
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Purpose of the Shelter Relocation


- **Providing Dignified and Safe Shelter for our Unhoused**
 - Current facility falling into **disrepair**
 - **No ADA accessibility** for our homeless guests
 - 3 guests 60+, one 70+ and 2 guests 80+
 - **Only** Somerville Adult Shelter serving both **Male and Female** clients
 - **Response to the City's growing homelessness crisis - 40 people outside nightly**
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Neighbor Communications

- Concerns about the project and pace are understandable
 - Time-dependent grant ear-marked for increasing unhoused shelter capacity
 - Community Engagement to provide information, address concerns and solicit input around project scope, operations and community-building elements
 - Guests are planned to be relocated from 64 to 89 College Ave approximately October 1st
 - SHC/FCS worked to ensure all processes mandated by the city were fulfilled and met as it related any zoning, permitting or other requirements. Permit issued as Dover Protected Use.
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Why do we need to increase capacity?

- **Increased capacity includes:** 10 additional Beds, 3 Showers (1 ADA), 4 Toilet Rooms (1 ADA) and 1 Laundry Room
 - **Providing a safe space to sleep in response to humanitarian need**
 - Extreme hot weather we have experienced here in recent weeks, -40 wind chills in February last year
 - **Supporting the Community**
 - First port of call for Neighbors, Business Owners and City leaders when unhoused individuals are sleeping in ATMs, behind commercial buildings and in parks
 - Ensuring more unhoused individuals will be in a safe shelter rather than on our neighborhood's streets
 - **Dedicated Day and Night spaces for homeless individuals**
 - Trust, safety and respect at SHC's Day Drop-In Engagement Center and Overnight Adult Shelter, results in a higher rate of clients moving into housing
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Long-Standing Community Partnership


- **FCS Mission Statement:** FCS lives to make God's expansive love and justice real through radically inclusive sanctuary, authentic connection, spiritual exploration, and transformative community engagement.
 - **25 Year Partnership**
 - **Joint Collaborations**
 - **SHC Monday Night Meal** served at First Church every Monday since the **1990's**
 - **SHC Thanksgiving Dinner** to homeless and vulnerable neighbors since **2005**
 - First Church embraced the opportunity to house a more dignified shelter space for individuals in need
 - Excited to continue to work together in helping to meet a significant City need
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Homeless and Housing Crisis in our Community

- Somerville's unhoused population has **grown increasingly more vulnerable** over the last several years, especially as it relates to physical health issues
- These are members of our community struggling with challenges that **could lead to homelessness**
- Homelessness impacts all of us in Somerville, and doing all we can to solve it, including by increasing the capacity of our shelter, is in everyone's best interest



Adult Shelter Operations

- Neighbors have traditionally been **extremely supportive of our presence** in the neighborhood at 64 College Ave
 - We are committed to continuing our current shelter **health and safety structure**:
 - **Supervised** by skilled and dedicated SHC staff at all times during operational hours
 - **Increased staffing** to reflect increased shelter capacity
 - Primary shelter door on 89 College Ave (left side of building when looking at it)
 - Trash and Pest Control services provided by a **private companies**
 - Shelter focuses on **housing search and care management** to support guests' transition out of shelter and into **affordable housing**
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Who are our Homeless Neighbors?



Thank You

- All documents printed tonight will be available at:
 - www.shcinc.org
 - www.firstchurchsomerville.org
 - Further questions to be sent to:
 - info@shcinc.org
 - office@firstchurchsomerville.org
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