

Neighborhood Survey Responses

Rationale: An opportunity to provide neighbors with the ability to remain anonymous while providing comments on the Adult Shelter relocation and expansion project

Survey Issue Date: 8.2.24

Date Received: 8.6.24-8.8.2024

Survey Size: 5

Privacy: Any names provided have been redacted and comments are thematic.

1. What are your concerns?

- Neighbors want the proposed scope to be reduced and seek active participation in planning, with veto power.
- Request for neighbor engagement that is not hostile, with good-faith conversation between neighbors, the church, and SHC
- Concerns about the safety of local families, especially children, due to the presence of sex offenders at the shelter
- **Operations:**
 - Worries about housing individuals with drug-related, or sexual crime backgrounds in a residential neighborhood. Residents want to know how they will be notified of such persons and how SHC will ensure safety
 - Requests to know the policy for allowing guests to come and go at any time for potential trespassing on neighbors' properties. Residents want assurance that this will be controlled
 - Shelter access should be from College Ave to protect the residential character of Francesca Ave
 - Requests for 24/7 response system from SHC with someone capable of addressing emergency issues immediately
 - Concerns that shelter guests gather or linger on residential streets which is intimidating, especially for children and those walking alone at night. Residents seek guarantees that loitering will not happen
 - A single designated smoking area should be on College Ave, with no smoking or gatherings on residential side streets.
- **Facility Maintenance::**
 - Ongoing concerns about the maintenance of 89 College Ave, including trash removal, rodent control, and lawn care, particularly on Francesca Ave.
 - All deliveries and maintenance work should occur at the College Ave entrance, not Francesca Ave, to avoid disrupting residential access and reducing noise.

2. What are your Top 3 questions you want answered?

- Why is the decision being made without community input, given the significant impact on the neighborhood?
- What does low-barrier shelter mean?
- What do you do if used sharps are found on properties and who will be responsible for cleanup?
- How will SHC address the rat problem at the new location?
- Has the construction company followed all building codes, including installing sprinklers, and fire doors, and ensuring proper ingress and egress?
- Have the fire department and structural inspections been completed?
- What measures will be in place to keep neighbors feeling safe, such as a 24/7 complaint number and a community oversight board?

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- Does SHC have experienced staffing and funding to operate a shelter that is larger than the current facility?
- Will SHC commit to necessary modifications to meet community needs?
- How will SHC be accountable to neighbors and address future concerns? Will SHC be able to respond immediately to problems as they arise?

3. What are your aspirations for the Community Engagement Process?

- Neighbors want the ability to veto the proposed shelter plan
- Residents want to avoid hostile meeting environments and there is skepticism about the church's definition of community and inclusion
- A desire for more meaningful engagement with SHC and neighbors in a calm environment - neighbors seek solutions-focused discussions.
- Requests for a meeting with Michael Libby, the director of SHC to gather their concerns, and work collaboratively to address them. The shelter should not open until all concerns are resolved. The focus of meetings should be on the specific challenges the shelter poses to the community
- An ongoing group should be formed, consisting only of those directly impacted and SHC representatives who can take immediate action on issues.

4. What are your aspirations for the Adult Shelter?

- Housing the shelter in a city-owned building, professionally staffed, in an appropriately zoned area
- Not having a low barrier shelter, limit to 16 people, and no registered sex offenders
- Have a neat exterior with no construction debris, no overflowing garbage cans, and no rats, entering and exiting strictly on the rectory side of the building
- Ensure that there is no loitering

5. What does moving forward look like?

- Stop all construction until a resolution with neighbors and abutters is secured
- Hold meetings with the neighborhood where concerns can be voiced and addressed
- Ensure that SHC listens to neighbors' concerns and works collaboratively to find solutions, rather than just holding open meetings where concerns are dismissed.
- A request for solution-oriented meetings and want SHC to consider and implement practical solutions, even if they are challenging
- Request for small, closed meetings with SHC

6. Any other comments you wish to share?

- Take care of people, get them off the street, out of the sun, and into a safe place
- First Church to reflect on their 'radical and inclusive' vision statement
- Start apologizing for starting construction and not notifying neighbors

7. What involvement do you want to have moving forward?

- Inclusion, and veto power
- Sincerity to work together without opposing neighbor concerns
- Involvement with my neighborhood group
- There should be a community group where concerns are raised and addressed, not merely aired and dismissed.