

**September 8, 2025**

**Dickinson City Commission  
Dickinson, ND**

**Dear Commissioners,**

**We, the concerned citizens of Dickinson, are once again writing to strongly oppose the special use permit request for a homeless shelter in our neighborhood. Over 400 residents signed a petition against this project in just a matter of days, demonstrating overwhelming community opposition.**

**It is important to note that the Dickinson Planning and Zoning Commission already voted 6-1 against this project. That decision was the product of careful deliberation and should be honored by the City Commission. Ignoring such a clear and decisive ruling undermines the integrity of the process.**

**We also remind you that the applicant previously appealed this decision, then withdrew the appeal, only to wait over three months before attempting to appeal again. This practice creates instability, manipulates the process, and is unfair to the residents who are directly impacted.**

**Allowing this shelter would set a dangerous precedent, opening the door for similar facilities to be placed in neighborhoods across Dickinson. Other cities in North Dakota, including Williston do not permit homeless shelters in residential neighborhoods, recognizing the risks and challenges these pose to safety and community stability.**

**The proposed facility itself is deeply flawed. Placing mental health services on one floor, addiction counseling on another, and a 13-bed homeless shelter on the bottom floor is simply not workable. Combining all three high-need services into one building will create safety issues and overwhelm available resources.**

**Furthermore, funding and staffing for such operations are increasingly difficult to secure in today's environment. Grants are limited, and skilled staffing for these types of services is extremely challenging to find. Without long-term and sustainable resources, this project is not viable.**

**We must also emphasize the safety concerns. Just weeks ago, there was a shooting at the United Way Homeless Shelter in Bismarck. Incidents like this highlight the real dangers that come with placing such facilities in the middle of residential areas. Adding to this concern, there are schools only a few blocks away from the proposed location. The safety of our**

children must be a top priority.

**This project also risks falling back on the taxpayers. When funding and staffing inevitably fall short, the burden of sustaining and managing this facility will shift to the citizens of Dickinson, creating long-term financial and safety liabilities.**

Additionally, we believe there is a conflict of interest with Dr. Baer being allowed to vote on this matter, given his role as a former executive director involved with these types of organizations. To ensure fairness and transparency, he should not be allowed to vote on this issue.

**In conclusion, we ask the City Commission to respect the voice of over 400 people, the 6-1 decision of the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the precedent set by other North Dakota cities, and to deny this special use permit at this location. Our community deserves safety, stability, and thoughtful planning that takes into account both the well-being of residents and the practical realities of managing such a facility.**

Sincerely,

  
Concerned Citizens of Dickinson