

**ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS 8-10-2023**

Items 6 & 7  
City of Norman  
718 N. Porter Avenue

## Rone Tromble

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**From:** Brenda Hall  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2023 1:30 PM  
**To:** Rone Tromble  
**Subject:** Fwd: EXTERNAL EMAIL : 718 N Porter

Here's another one.

Brenda Hall, City Clerk  
City of Norman  
P.O. Box 370  
Norman, OK 73070  
(405) 366-5405  
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Marguerite Larson <larson.marguerite@gmail.com>  
**Date:** August 10, 2023 at 12:55:11 PM CDT  
**To:** Brenda Hall <Brenda.Hall@normanok.gov>  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL EMAIL : 718 N Porter

Dear Brenda,

I am writing to you regarding the proposed permanent housing shelter for the unhoused. I do believe that this is the perfect location for it, as Norman Regional will be converting their campus across the street into a mental health facility. The idea that the city has taken steps to assist the unhoused population is showing an investment in the entire Norman community. I am in total support of this move, and I am hopeful it will come to fruition.

I am requesting you pass this email to the Norman Planning Commission.

Thank you,  
Marguerite Larson

## Rone Tromble

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**From:** Brenda Hall  
**Sent:** Friday, August 04, 2023 2:29 PM  
**To:** Rone Tromble  
**Cc:** Jane Hudson  
**Subject:** FW: EXTERNAL EMAIL : Upcoming Item on 718 North Porter  
**Attachments:** Shelter natural experiment (2).pdf

Please forward as requested below

*Brenda Hall, City Clerk*  
City of Norman  
P.O. Box 370  
Norman, OK 73070  
[Brenda.Hall@NormanOK.gov](mailto:Brenda.Hall@NormanOK.gov)  
(405) 366-5405

*This email and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to which they are addressed. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender.*

**From:** Stephen Ellis <stepheneellis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 04, 2023 1:16 PM  
**To:** Brenda Hall <Brenda.Hall@NormanOK.gov>  
**Cc:** \_Council Members <City\_Council\_Members@NormanOK.gov>  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL EMAIL : Upcoming Item on 718 North Porter

Hi Brenda,

Will you please forward this note to the members of the Planning Commission? There doesn't seem to be contact information for that body on the City webpage.

Thanks in advance!

Dear Planning Commissioners,

The Agenda isn't out yet, but several people on social media are reporting that the proposed shelter/resource center for the unhoused community at 718 North Porter will be before your Commission on Thursday, August 10, 2023. On the chance that the rumor is true, I wanted to send you some data work I did on the issue, viz. the impact of having some shelter vs not having any.

As you are likely aware, the City just did a 'natural experiment' of going through a 4-month period without any shelter. (See the timeline here: <https://www.normanok.gov/media/17621>). In June, I decided to compare that 4-month period with the 4 months preceding and the 4 months following with respect to the complaints people have about the existence of the shelter. See the attached document. There is data, although it isn't really the data a researcher would like to have, and it doesn't support the claim that Norman was better off without a shelter. If anything, it (weakly) supports the claim that closing the shelter led to more problems (as measured by complaints to the City).

A word about the data: the cumulative police data is antecedently unlikely to budge based on the removal of 35-50 beds for the unhoused b/c Norman's population is too large and the number of people added to the street population is too small. If anyone at NPD would be willing to put more demographically specific crime data into the public sphere, that would be helpful.

The information from the City's "Action Line" is probably more probative. Of course, calls to the Action Line don't represent all of the opinions people have ... but they are likely to be correlated in a rough way.

Stephen Ellis  
Ward 4

A First Look at Norman's 'Natural Experiment':  
Four Months Without a Public Homeless Shelter  
Stephen Ellis  
June 7, 2023

In the winter of 2020, the City of Norman opened a warming shelter for unhoused individuals at 325 Comanche Street. That shelter closed on June 27, 2022.<sup>1</sup> The City of Norman opened up a new emergency warming shelter at 109 W. Gray Street on November 1, 2022.<sup>2</sup> Norman was without a public shelter for unhoused individuals for a little over 4 months.

The four-month interruption in shelter services provides a 'natural experiment' for looking at the effects of providing shelter for the unhoused. I was able to utilize monthly "Reported Crimes" data from the Norman Police Department to compare the 4 months Norman went without a shelter (July-October 2022) with the 4 months preceding (March-June 2022) and the 4 months succeeding (November 2022 - February 2023). Likewise, I was able to utilize the "City Action Line Logs" to compare calls about the homeless during the 4 months Norman went without a shelter to the 4 months prior and the 4 months afterward.

#### "Reported Crimes"

The Norman Police Department provides information about reported crimes to the City Council each month as part of a *Monthly Departmental Report* prepared by City Staff. The *Monthly Departmental Report* for a given month is usually an Item on the City Council Agenda at the second regular Council Meeting of the next month.

The unhoused population is a small fraction of Norman's total population, so it doesn't seem likely that a change in the housing conditions for that population will have much of an effect on crime statistics. The monthly data seemed to bear that out - see Table 1.

Figure 1 provides a more granular look at the *Total (reported)* data (the error bars are standard deviations).

Figure 2 is a more granular look at the *Public Intoxication* and *Harassment* data (the error bars are standard deviations).

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<sup>1</sup> Spencer Bias, "Norman City Council approves emergency warming shelter, police department grant," *OU Daily*, Oct. 12, 2022  
<[https://www.oudaily.com/news/norman-city-council-approves-emergency-warming-shelter-police-department-grant/article\\_9e72c24a-4a67-11ed-830b-4bf16339a9e4.html](https://www.oudaily.com/news/norman-city-council-approves-emergency-warming-shelter-police-department-grant/article_9e72c24a-4a67-11ed-830b-4bf16339a9e4.html)>

<sup>2</sup> Max Bryan, "A temporary solution: Food & Shelter facility opens in downtown Norman," *Norman Transcript*, Nov. 1, 2022  
<[https://www.normantranscript.com/news/a-temporary-solution-food-shelter-facility-opens-in-downtown-norman/article\\_992b3edc-596e-11ed-9e77-8bf778365123.html](https://www.normantranscript.com/news/a-temporary-solution-food-shelter-facility-opens-in-downtown-norman/article_992b3edc-596e-11ed-9e77-8bf778365123.html)>

Table 1

<u>Period/ Reported Crimes<sup>3</sup></u>	<u>Agg. assault</u>	<u>Public Intox.</u>	<u>Drugs</u>	<u>Harrass.</u>	<u>Vandalism</u>	<u>Total (reported)</u>
<b>12 mo. mean</b>	20.42	43.33	41.83	38.67	79.00	1023.92
<b>March - June mean</b>	19.25	44.25	47.75	37.50	89.75	899.50
<b>July - Oct. mean</b>	20.75	47.25	41.75	40.25	83.00	1026.25
<b>Nov. - Feb. mean</b>	21.25	38.50	36.00	38.25	64.25	1146.00

Figure 1

**Total Reported Crimes**

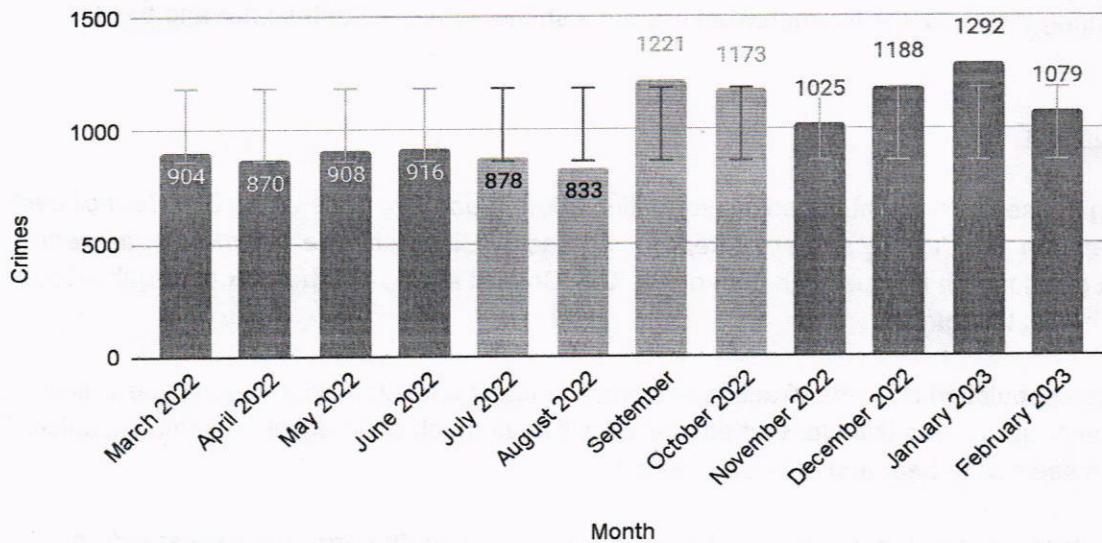


Figure 2

City Action Line Logs

The City Action Line logs from February 1, 2022 until May 1, 2023 were obtained from the City of Norman. There were 6,675 contacts with the City in the period of interest, from March 1, 2022 until February 28, 2023. Of those contacts, only 80 (1.2%) concerned unhoused ('homeless') individuals, and

<sup>3</sup> I pre-selected a set of crimes that people have associated with the issue of 'homelessness'.

only 64 of those 80 (80%) were *complaints* about unhoused individuals.<sup>4</sup> The 64 complaints were lodged by - at most - 54 individuals;<sup>5</sup> the 16 non-complaint contacts were made by - at most - 13 individuals.<sup>6</sup>

Table 2 has the contacts broken down by time period.

The numbers are small, but it appears that complaints may have *increased* during the time there was no public shelter. Non-complaints about the shelter - particularly offers to help and requests for help - collapsed after the East Comanche St. shelter closed.

Table 2

	<u>complaints</u>	<u>non-complaints</u>
<i>March - June</i>	20	11
<i>July-October</i>	26	3
<i>November - February</i>	18	2

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<sup>4</sup> Some of the 16 non-complaints were requests for information ("wanted info on homeless shelter"), offers to help unhoused people ("I want to help promote this homeless shelter, what can I do?"), or calls from unhoused individuals asking for help ("complaint about employee at shelter touching her things and going through her stuff").

<sup>5</sup> Of the 64 complaints, 44 were lodged by 34 distinct individuals. There were 20 anonymous complaints.

<sup>6</sup> Of the 16 non-complaints, 8 were lodged by 5 distinct individuals. There were 8 anonymous non-complaints.