

**Subject:** Proposed Shelter on City Hall Property

**Date:** Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 12:05:10 PM Pacific Standard Time

**From:** Rochelle James

**To:** Julie Fisher

Greetings Council Members,

I have concerns regarding the establishment of this shelter. I fully appreciate the reasoning behind choosing this site and the optimism expressed by those involved in being able to operate it, while keeping it a safe, orderly, and a controlled environment. However, I am concerned this is not easily attainable.

We have all seen various shelter facilities in different cities and all operate with various rules to gain assistance. At times guests may be cooperative and will be sheltered and at other times they may decide not to be cooperative resulting in no admittance to the facility. When not allowed into the facilities, these individuals will remain on the street, quite possibly by their own choice.

One of my concerns is when it becomes known this facility has 30 individual huts available ( which sounds like a large amount) there will be an influx of persons and the site will be quickly overwhelmed resulting in even more unsheltered individuals in this community. In light of that concern, I would like to know the following:

1. What is the estimated number of unsheltered individuals in the Sweet Home area? Of those, how many is it estimated would be interested in placement at this facility?
2. What is the current staffing level for patrol officers at Sweet Home Police department?
3. How many vacant officer positions are there in the department?
4. What is the minimum staffing levels for officers per shift?
5. Is the department prepared/equipped to handle the potential increase in persons who may seek out Sweet Home for services, those potentially denied assistance, and the increased calls for service that may be generated?
6. Given the close proximity to the school and residential areas, bus stops, etc. how will the facility address safety of the community. Will the facility know if individuals they are serving have potentially dangerous criminal histories ( sex offenses, assaults, etc)? Is there a screening process?
7. Can a person remain in the shelter indefinitely?
8. If a person is removed from the shelter by the operator, where will they go? What responsibility does the shelter have to the person who is being removed?

I am concerned this facility is going to generate more activity than the city of Sweet Home will be able to manage. This is a small town with limited resources. I believe there will be an increase in incidents affecting the public and little to no recourse for those affected. I understand the need for services, but I am not convinced this facility is the answer.

I look forward to your response.

Respectfully,  
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Sent from my iPhone