

Anna Stamper

From: Tommie Hatcher
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2017 4:14 PM
To: Anna Stamper
Subject: Warming Center / Homeless Issues

I'm all for helping the homeless, but I don't feel good about the Warming Center so close to a daycare.

Thank you for listening,
Tommie Hatcher
2921 Marine Drive
Astoria, OR 97103

Anna Stamper

From: Kevin Cronin
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 8:41 AM
To: Kris Haefker
Cc: Nancy Ferber; Anna Stamper
Subject: RE: Warming shelter

Hi Kris:

Packets were delivered yesterday.

We will make copies for the July 25 meeting.

Thanks for taking the time to comment.

– Kevin

Kevin A. Cronin, AICP
Community Development Director
City of Astoria
Community Development Department
1095 Duane Street
Astoria, OR 97103

503-338-5183 (w)
971-704-4821 (c)
kcronin@astoria.or.us
www.astoria.or.us



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From: Kris Haefker |
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 7:46 AM
To: Kevin Cronin <kcronin@astoria.or.us>; Nancy Ferber <nferber@astoria.or.us>
Subject: Warming shelter

Kevin,
Please include this in your packet for next week.

Dear Planning Commission,

The warming center has become a bit of a hot topic around the neighborhood where it is located. I've been living on Grand between 11th and 12th street since 2001 and now own several properties in this location. Over the past few seasons, the "warming shelter" has operated around the corner from my home at 11th and Franklin. Later this month, a conditional use permit for this facility is coming up for review in front of the planning commission. This has stirred some conversation.

First I'd like to thank all the hardworking volunteers and people that help provide a warming shelter. Budget cuts at all levels have made it very difficult to survive and find care when you are poor. This really puts a strain on communities and can cause conflict.

Obviously there's a need for a warming center in our community and I would love to support it. However, the present location of a "no barrier" warming shelter no longer seems fitting. Over the past year, the facility has increased its occupancy and has operated more like a "homeless shelter." The larger group size has increased the amount of disturbances with more noise, late night emergency vehicle visits, and garbage. Some of the shelter's clients harass pedestrians and carry weapons. This is not something I like to encounter while walking downtown in the morning and evening. When the warming center is not in operation, most of these issues don't seem to exist. Besides myself, other neighborhood residents are exhausted from having this facility at this location. The "warming center" has created a conflict in the neighborhood and might function better somewhere else. The "no barrier" policy should also be reconsidered. I'm not sure if that type of business model should be in any neighborhood.

Across the street from me is the food bank. Its also a very important ingredient to our community. From what I observe, it services many people in need and has coexisted well in the neighborhood. The operation is well managed and scheduled. People come and go during business hours and therefore don't cause a parking problem. Most of their clients are quiet and considerate. The food bank works well in the neighborhood.

There are other community organizations in close proximity to where I live and none of them take away the charm from the neighborhood. In fact, they add to the vitality and strengthen its desirability. There are other church groups, youth dance programs, music schools, and daycare providers. These groups help make our neighborhood great and I'm not sure they blend well with a "no barrier" shelter.

As a property owner and housing provider the city has asked me if the "warming shelter" maintains the neighborhood's current livability or if I endorse the activity the warming shelter provides. In short, the current warming center location doesn't contribute to making the neighborhood safer, cleaner, or more desirable. I object to granting the warming center a conditional use permit.

Here's what I ask myself when thinking about the "warming center:"

1) Does the "no barrier" approach to a "warming center" belong in a neighborhood or Astoria?

A warming center belongs in every community. The "no barriers" approach is asking for trouble if not handled by professionals.

2) Will the "warming center" become a "homeless shelter" again?

The center has pushed its boundaries in the past. The way it functioned was more like a "homeless shelter." This was never part of any deal.

3) Are the volunteers trained to deal with violent episodes if they occur? .

This is very important when dealing with people that are intoxicated, have mental issues and or behavioral issues. Episodes happen fast and can be very unexpected. What is the procedure? Is the building designed to manage a violent outbreak? I'm not convinced that all the proper mechanisms are in place to guarantee the safety for all the volunteers, clients, or neighborhood.

4) Is having a gathering space in a neighborhood for a large group of people carrying weapons good idea? At the last meeting, it was pointed out that many of the people needing the warming center services carry weapons. This makes me very concerned! Especially if some of them might be drunk.

5) Can there be another space used for the "warming center" that doesn't cause neighborhood conflict? Maybe the city of Astoria wants to get involved and have the yacht club used for this purpose.

6) Does the "warming center" improve the neighborhood? It has not! Flashing lights on a regular basis increases the stress level for everyone living near the center.

7) Does my wife or child feel safe walking past the center alone in the dark? They do not! They avoid walking up 11th and take an alternate route.

8) Does the "warming center" group have a good approach listening to the all the residents in the neighborhood? From the last neighborhood meeting, most all the neighbors with concerns were appalled at the lack of respect they were shown. It has caused a deeper rift between the two groups.

9) Where can they go to expand and provide more services? In the past, didn't the warming center function at the Armory building? This would be a much better location since there is more space. The only condition might be removing the "no barrier" approach. Since the warming center busses people to other locations when needed, the location doesn't need to be downtown.

Thank you for considering my thoughts,
Kris Haefker
haefker@gmail.com

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Dear Planning Commission,

First I want to appreciate the community services being provided to those in need of a safe warm place during the inclement weather. I am currently living in Portland and work in behavioral health and social services. Portland and the surrounding area have developed warming shelters open in inclement weather. Portland's planning may hold suggestions on the structuring of services in the community of Astoria.

I have a home on Grand Avenue near 11th Street, leased by three women. Last winter the livability of the area was negatively impacted by people utilizing the shelter or warming center. Providing a no barrier shelter in a neighborhood creates collateral issues affecting the immediate community.

Will people again be drinking and using other drugs on the street nearby the shelter? People who are altered by substance use become more impulsive and have fewer boundaries; I believe this is true of everyone. A group drinking on the street and asking for change is intimidating and potentially dangerous. Last summer the panhandling became aggressive and menacing at times.

What self care facilities are available before and after the shelter hours? Is there garbage receptacles placed within easy access to gathering places? Is the staff willing to clean up the refuse and the sidewalk and adjacent properties? If these needs are unaddressed the neighbors become responsible for garbage and human waste in their yards and on the streets. I am empathetic to the challenges of living in the open and am aware the majority of people without shelter have experienced extensive difficulty, loss and trauma prior to their arrival at a warming shelter. "With winter fast approaching, we must ensure that people who have no choice but to sleep outside are safe," Commissioner Fish of Portland stated last winter at a press conference. "Now more than ever, it's time for our community to come together to face this humanitarian crisis." The Clackamas Service Center provides the following description on their web site of the services provided by warming shelters.

"Available when temperatures are predicted to be 33 degrees or lower or when other conditions such as accumulated snowfall or high winds make sleeping outdoors especially dangerous. Sign up starts at 7pm, first come, first served. Doors are locked at 10pm and no one is allowed in or out afterwards. The center closes at 7am as a warming center and clients will be asked to vacate the shelter for cleaning. Serves individuals and families with children. No animals are allowed. Hot drinks, food and sleeping mats or cots are provided."

<https://www.orcity.org/community/emergency-warming-centers>

Having clear parameters defining a warming center as a harm reduction response to inclement weather is an essential distinction from the services offered at a Homeless Shelter. Closing the doors at 10pm is a safety issue for consumers and staff. Those utilizing low barrier Center frequently have unaddressed substance use issues, limiting the coming and going reduces continual access and associated risks. Are those that utilize the warming center able to keep themselves and those around them safe? Are they able to respect the other members in the community? And if not, how will the community manage these issues, risks and concerns? The risks to the community are reduced when a warming shelter is located outside the core residential and business areas with frequent foot traffic.

Please consider these larger ramifications in your decision where to locate and how to manage future warming centers in Astoria.

Thank you for your consideration, Katharine Kavanaugh MS RN

July 16, 2017
TO: ASTORIA PLANNING Commission

FROM: CHRISTINE LOLICH

CITY OF ASTORIA

179 West Duane St

JUL 21 2017

RE: WARMING Center

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I am unable to attend the July 25th meeting, showing my thoughts + concerns on paper.

The ladies from the church that opens for the warming center attended the July ADHDA meeting

concerns: not following rules for

- food only to be H₂O + broth

- opening doors at higher temperatures then agreed to

- weapons - mentioned a small pocket knife is not a weapon. a small blade can easily kill someone if striking in areas of the body

- homeless are extremely threatening to locals walking around town

I recommend, if there is a warming center, that rules are

followed, This would be policy.

As a single female, I feel very threatened by many of these homeless. both men & female

We have had such a huge increase in homeless, that have traveled from afar.

Why are we catering to outsiders. Why can we not just help those that really want help.

If I could vote, I would not vote for the current warming center!

This problem needs to be explored more closely AND whomever is in charge MUST listen to the citizens of Astoria

Thank you

Christine (Lisk)

The Astoria Planning Commission

Astoria City Hall

1095 Duane Street

Astoria, Or 97103

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Dear Commissioners,

I feel that the "Warming Center" located inside the Church at 11th and Franklin Streets is an inappropriate location. There is a daycare center located 1 block east at 12th and Franklin Streets. I have seen teenagers walking younger children home past the church with people waiting for the center to open. Another church, located on the southeast corner of 11th and Grand, has after school programs for young children. The Ilahee apartments, located directly across from the "warming center" entryway is home to several elderly residents. The Astoria Senior Center, another vulnerable population, is located directly across the street at 11th and Exchange

The Board in charge of the "Warming Center" cannot be trusted to follow the guidelines for a "warming center." They are providing dinners and breakfast as well as showers and laundry facilities to the overnight residents. This location also encourages the center's clientele to spend extra time in the neighborhood soliciting people walking to and from downtown jobs or appointments.

I feel the "Warming Center" needs to be relocated to another location.

Patricia A. Oser



254 West Irving Avenue

Astoria, Oregon 97103

503-325-4906

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July 21, 2017

President Pearson and Fellow Commissioners:

Thank you for your efforts in reading the application and letters provided by supporters of the AWC. I read all of the letters as well, and naturally have several concerns.

Neighbors whose lives have been greatly impacted by the perpetually increasing issues created by the Homeless Shelter in our neighborhood are disappointed that the AWC application makes no mention of our very real and ongoing concerns of which the AWC board is aware.

For over three years, we have asked for a neighborhood discussion. Until the city required the Conditional Use Permit, no effort to communicate with affected parties was made. The eventual neighborhood meeting, held June 11th, coincided with the last day of Astoria Pride and the opening day of the Astoria Music Festival. Many affected parties had scheduled other activities or purchased tickets to hear Angela Mead perform at The Liberty Theater, also scheduled for 4:00 p.m.

Attached emails are part of the communication that my neighbors and I have had with the city over the past 3 1/2 years, and hopefully sum up our concerns. Please note the urgency of the January 2017 emails compared to February 2015, and note that I used considerable restraint in describing our issues. Anne suggested the "Day In The Life" narrative to provide an idea of what we see in a typical day *only when the shelter is open*. These issues are not year-round, and did not exist before the shelter.

Please note that most of the letters on both sides indicate the need for a Warming Center in Astoria. Virtually all of my neighbors were early supporters and continue to agree about the need for a Warming Center.

Among the letters of support are three from my neighbors at The Illahee Apartments. While I respect and appreciate these people and their right to express their views, their perspective as occupants of The Illahee is very different from mine as the housing provider who is responsible for their health, safety and welfare while they are on my premises. The other 90% of the occupants of The Illahee, for whose health, safety and welfare I am also responsible, have asked me to express our concerns about the Homeless Shelter operating in our front yard.

Again, we don't have an issue with a Warming Center. The issue is that we were originally told the Warming Center would be open on nights with temperatures forecast below 35 degrees and would serve coffee and chicken broth to locals who were, for whatever reason, without a warm place to spend the night. When this was changed to 38 degrees and then 40 degrees, we understood.

However, without discussion with (or notice to) city, neighbors or affected parties, the AWC announced that they would stay open regardless of weather, then started offering services well beyond what a Warming Center provides, and well beyond their capability to properly and safely provide.

The "low barrier" or zero-threshold Homeless Shelter that they have operated in violation of zoning, building and fire codes (and in violation of the initial promises made to the neighborhood) for the past few years is a magnet for homeless people from out of the area, many of whom have mental health issues or serious issues with addiction. They come from

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areas where shelters have reasonable requirements of good behavior and sobriety that they choose not to observe.

The AWC application states that there are no other low-barrier shelters in the area. It does not, however, explain *why* there are so few low-barrier shelters anywhere. The behavior of the clients that the Homeless Shelter attracts is a clear indication of why legitimate and experienced shelter operators require standards that the AWC refuses to establish and would be incapable of enforcing if they did.

To **Summarize** Our Neighborhood Issues:

1. Warming Center for locals which had our full support has grown into a magnet Low-Barrier Homeless Shelter that attracts clients from out of the area.
2. AWC board refused for over 3 1/2 years to communicate with neighbors.
3. AWC refuses to publicly acknowledge that this is a Homeless Shelter, although they have made such claims in seeking grants from groups such as Meyer Memorial Trust.
4. Clients leave litter, including broken glass, feces (human and pet) and drug paraphernalia (including needles and small squares of scorched aluminum foil) in our neighborhood and downtown, in landscaping and on sidewalks.
5. Clients leave filthy backpacks, blankets, sleeping bags, clothes and other items behind, which we have to clean up.
6. Shelter Clients are armed before they are "turned loose" (Dan Parkison's words, not mine) each morning in our neighborhood and downtown, where they spend the other 12 hours each day.
7. **Extremely Aggressive Behavior** by homeless people attracted to Astoria due to the low-barrier Homeless Shelter. Loud behavior, fighting among themselves, purposely intimidating neighborhood residents and downtown businesses, employees and customers.
8. Shelter clients don't beg for food or money, **they Demand money, drugs or booze** from neighbors as they make their way downtown, then from business owners and people who dare to shop downtown. This is extremely unsettling.
9. Shelter clients are invited to our neighborhood and expressly told that being drunk or stoned is acceptable behavior, for which they are rewarded with warm meals (which, according to proud AWC volunteers are apparently among the best served to homeless anywhere) and a warm bed in a clean venue each night, for as long as they wish to stay.
10. Flashing Lights from Law Enforcement and Emergency Responders create stress for the neighborhood. This happens more often than not when Homeless Shelter is open.
11. Issues which did not exist before the shelter, commence as soon as Homeless Shelter Opens for the season and taper off after they close. Issues do not occur in our neighborhood year round, and with considerably less frequency the rest of the year in downtown.
12. Issues have intensified every year since the shelter opened. This trend is very disturbing.

The neighbors and local businesses affected by the Homeless Shelter greatly appreciate your consideration of our concerns. The AWC board and volunteers have their hearts in the right place, but the Homeless Shelter is not. We ask that you deny the Conditional Use Permit, and hope that they will rethink the location and scope of services that they intend to provide.

 SEAN FITZPATRICK

Attachment 1: Email received in December 2013 at same time that Terry Wilson chided Astoria City Council about lack of Warming Center as per Celia Davis' letter. We were excited about the possibility of locating a Warming Center in the Astoria Armory when Anne forwarded this email to me- happy to provide details of why that did not work at the time and what would be required in that venue now.

Page 2 of 3 is most important, but pages 1 and 3 are included. I put asterisks by information that I shared with Drew Herzig, who confirmed that this was what they were proposing for the Warming Center.

We were told in no-uncertain terms that the Warming Center was simply **to provide a warm space for the few unfortunate locals (including elderly homeowners unable to pay utility bills)** who, for whatever reason, would not otherwise have a place to stay warm on freezing nights.

Attachment 2: Email communications between Brett Estes and me on February 14, 2015 and February 15, 2015. In this email, I note that I contributed (money, clothing, high capacity washer and dryer) to and vocally supported the Warming Center in the form originally presented to neighbors and the city. Brett suggests that I talk with the Warming Center board about my concerns.

In my subsequent conversation with Drew, he acknowledged that there were issues and bugs to be worked out. I was assured that they would have a community conversation before opening the following year in the Methodist Church Hall so that affected parties could be heard and our concerns could be addressed.

Such conversation took place in February of 2015. Shortly thereafter the AWC had announced that the Shelter would be open every night until they used up their 90 day limit, regardless of weather. Please note that weather in early 2015 was very mild, and Astoria experienced a mild drought that year.

The community conversation or "Neighborhood Meeting" that was promised- during organization in 2013 and on through 2017 -took place on June 11, 2017.

Attachment 3: Out of order chronologically, but logical place to insert. Notes that I made on June 11 after the long-promised Neighborhood Meeting and email conversation with Sarah Lu from ADHDDA. Invitation to meeting (included in packet) stated "We want to hear your concerns." Issues and concerns raised at the meeting by neighbors were not acknowledged but dismissed. As noted, board members did not acknowledge our concerns and a few people told us that the issues that we raised were made up.

Attachment 4: Communications with Brett Estes in December 2016 about AWC **announcing- without notice to city or neighbors, and in violation of State Fire Code and City building code and zoning restrictions- that they would be open EVERY NIGHT for at least 120 days.**

Attachment 5: Email communication sent to Pastor Bill of First Presbyterian Church who was at the time a newly elected board member of the AWC. This was sent a week after the motor home from out of state exploded on January 14th at 11th and Franklin, in front of our homes and during a time of extremely serious issues with bad behavior by the clients of the Homeless Shelter. Neighbors felt that we were due for a respite as the 90 days allowed for operations set

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to expire, and the AWC announced that they were planning to exploit a loophole by moving operations to another church when the 90 days allowed by State Fire Marshall expired.

Attachment 6: Pastor Bill's letter to fellow AWC board members in response to my email. Please note that he acknowledges that board members and volunteers get to choose how much time they spend with the homeless, while neighbors and businesses are stuck with them 24/7 during the time of year when the shelter is open.

Attachment 7: Email communications sent on January 25th, 2017 from Katharine Kavanaugh, MS RN, who works with homeless in the mental health profession and owns a home on Grand Avenue near 11th Street.

Attachment 8: Email communications sent on January 25th, 2017 from Lisa DeCicco at 1135 Grand Avenue in response to issues created by clients of the Homeless Shelter.

Attachment 9: Email sent by Dan Parkison, President of AWC, to Robyn Koustik at Astoria Armory asking for letter stating that Armory is not an acceptable location for the "AWC operation" which he does not define as either a Warming Center or Homeless Shelter. This was apparently written to show Planning Commission that the Methodist Church in the Residential Zone is the only place that could house their "operation."

Photo 1: View from my home at 11th & Grand, of Entry to Homeless Shelter in lower level of First United Methodist Church (FUMC) at 11th & Franklin.

Photos 2 & 3: Views from my kitchen table of the FUMC parking lot at 11th & Franklin- the first showing that we have a clear view of the parking lot, the other showing that we have a clear view of downtown.

During the Neighborhood Meeting on June 11, 2017, several neighbors expressed concerns about issues that we have seen in the neighborhood. Some AWC board members denied our concerns, assuring us that they did not happen or that we were making things up. One person, standing near the windows of the shelter, was aggressively outspoken in denying our claims. As I listened to her, I noticed that the Shelter, which is in the basement of the church, has several windows high on the wall facing 11th Street. However, on the outside, the windows are on the ground, which slopes up from the church to the sidewalk.

As I walk up 11th Street, as I do several times a day year-round, I can see into the Homeless Shelter from the sidewalk. However, from inside the Shelter, the sidewalk, street and parking lot are not visible. I pointed out to the people there that from inside the shelter, the only thing I could see was blue sky and the steeple of Peace Lutheran Church at 12th and Exchange.

Photos are included to show my "perspective" of activity near the doors of the Homeless Shelter and the area from the Homeless Shelter down 11th to the Columbia River, the Garden of Surging Waves, the parking lots between 11th and 12th Streets, and the Senior Center where the Warming Center first opened. When I say we have had a Front Row Seat in watching the issues with the Warming Center and their clients unfold, this is what I mean.

Between our apartment, my office (which is directly below my apartment) and walking downtown and on the Riverwalk for business and pleasure, I see a lot of what goes on in downtown Astoria, year round. Anne and I have owned The Illahee since 2004, and as residents who spend the majority of our lives in downtown Astoria, we know what the city looks like at different times of the year, and what has changed since the Warming Center first opened for the 2014/2015 season.

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Request from Red Cross:

Attachment 1

I am writing to get the assistance of the ORVOAD members to find a facility the Red Cross can use this Friday and Saturday (December 6 and 7) to operate an Emergency Warming Center for the homeless. The City of Portland and Red Cross collaborate during cold weather events to open a facility so that those who are living outside are not exposed to the life threatening cold weather.

As we progress through the week the temperatures are looking to drop into the low 20's with winds that will bring the wind chill down into the teens. The facility we generally use is Imago Dei which has room for about 150 people. Imago Dei has some pre-planned events for Friday and Saturday (December 6 and 7) that exclude us from using their facility. My request for assistance from the ORVOAD membership would be access to a space where we could shelter between 150 and 300 people and their pets.

The timing of our warming center is from 9pm – 7am (time the clients are in our facility. Our staff generally arrives a little early for setup and then do cleanup in the mornings until about 9am. The specifics we are looking for are:

- 6000 – 12,000 square feet of sleeping space.
- All animals are brought in and kept in kennels. We would be seeking permission to setup an area for the kennels. Within the area designated for kennels we lay down black plastic to protect the floor.
- 10 toilets
- Electricity and water to prepare coffee and chicken broth for our clients.
- An area for people to smoke outdoors
- Access to a janitorial closet so that we can perform cleanup.

The Red Cross would be prepared to take responsibility for:

- Ensuring our clients remains in only our approved area.
- Providing reimbursement for reasonable costs related to the use of your facility (we can discuss what these may be)
- Taking responsibility for damages our staff or clients make to the facility
- We can also discuss any other questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you for considering my request to help us keep people from freezing to death as we enter a very cold week. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or

Fwd: Red Cross asking for warming shelters

https://mail.aol.com/webmail-std/en-us/PrintMessage

From: first presbyterian <firstpresastoriaor@gmail.com>
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
Subject: Fwd: Red Cross asking for warming shelters
Date: Thu, Dec 5, 2013 11:03 am

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Aleida Jernigan <EPNorth@cascadespresbytery.org>
Date: Wed, Dec 4, 2013 at 9:11 AM
Subject: Red Cross asking for warming shelters
To: bk061778@gmail.com
Cc: Aleida Jernigan <ajernigan@cascadespresbytery.org>

This e-mail account does not send replies. To contact Bob Stai please use the e-mail address listed here: bk061778@gmail.com Thank you.

FROM: Bob Stai, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance/ORVOAD point person
Mission Support Committee, Cascades Presbytery

TO: All NE/NW Cascades Presbytery churches

Red Cross has asked members of ORVOAD for facilities to use as warming centers this weekend.

Please read the information below.

Thanks, Bob

Fwd: Red Cross asking for warming shelters

<https://mail.aol.com/webmail-std/en-us/PrintMessage>

concerns that you may have.

Take care,

Curtis Peetz | Direct Services Support Manager

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Anne Carpenter
Secretary
First Presbyterian Church of Astoria
1103 Grand Ave.
Astoria, OR 97103
(503)325-1702
<http://firstpresbyterianastoria.org/>

Fwd: Homeless Shelter

<https://mail.aol.com/webmail-std/en-us/PrintMessage>

CITY OF ASTORIA

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From: Sean Fitzpatrick <csrefitz@aol.com>
To: csrefitz@aol.com
Subject: Fwd: Homeless Shelter
Date: Mon, Jun 26, 2017 5:38 pm

-----Original Message-----

From: Sean Fitzpatrick <csrefitz@aol.com>
To: bestes@astoria.or.us
Sent: Sun, Feb 15, 2015 6:52 am
Subject: Re: Homeless Shelter

Thanks, Brett.

We've had a few neighbors (our tenants) show concern since we have a front row seat to what goes on near the senior center.

The homeless started lining up about 3:30 to 4:00 yesterday, one sleeping in front of my 12th Street building, one in front of city hall by the Elks, one on the bench by the Senior Center and one smack dab in the doorway. An older couple had parked in the lot at the Senior Center and had to pass them to get to their car and seemed concerned about the guy in the doorway, so Anne and I stayed close until they got in their car. Since it opened, it has changed the character of the area.

Sean Fitzpatrick
csrefitz@aol.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Brett Estes <bestes@astoria.or.us>
To: Sean Fitzpatrick <csrefitz@aol.com>
Sent: Sat, Feb 14, 2015 10:12 am
Subject: Re: Homeless Shelter

Attachment 2

Sean, have you conveyed your concerns with the Warming Shelter Board? I'd be interested if you received any feedback.

Thanks,
Brett

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 14, 2015, at 5:43 AM, Sean Fitzpatrick <csrefitz@aol.com> wrote:

Hi Brett,

The Warming Shelter has become a Homeless Shelter. The agreement was that they would open when temperatures were expected to drop below 35 degrees. We do not have 35 degree temperatures predicted but they are open all weekend. We have shopping carts lining up on the ramp to the lower level and homeless sleeping in the doorway during the day.

I'm a compassionate person and donated to the shelter, but I also feel misled about the intention for the use of the building.

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Attachment 1B 21 2017

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From: Sean Fitzpatrick <csrefitz@aol.com>

To: sarah <sarah@astoriadowntown.com>

Cc: dulcyet <dulcyet@gmail.com>; bestes <bestes@astoria.or.us>; kcronin <kcronin@astoria.or.us>; alamear <alamear@astoria.or.us>; pastorbill <pastorbill@fpcastoria.org>; twleiner <twleiner@gmail.com>; cprice <cprice@astoria.or.us>; haefker <haefker@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Meeting This Evening about Homeless Shelter

Date: Mon, Jun 12, 2017 4:18 pm

Hi Sarah Lu,

Thanks for the response. The meeting was interesting. Attendance by neighbors was reasonable given the short notice and bad timing. I wrote some notes after the meeting that I would be happy to share- too extensive for this email.

Some of the board members appear to be good people who care deeply about the homeless, but admitted that they never thought about the impact on the neighbors. Two others were dismissive- one was condescending, the other extremely aggressive and adamant in her denial of our statements. Some of the women who attended- and at least one of the men- stated to me after the meeting that they were intimidated by her combative responses and not comfortable stating further concerns.

Overall, the board members appear to be in over their heads. They do not appear to understand that some of the services that they would like to offer are already offered by other agencies in our community. They have good intentions, but no real experience and no grasp of how lucky they are that they haven't had a serious issue. The gentleman that started the presentation stated that when the homeless arrive they hand over an average of 30 to 40 weapons, which are then given back when, in his words, they "Turn them loose at 8:00 each morning."

It was very disturbing that none of the board appears to have considered the impact of turning 40 people with weapons loose in our community- our neighborhood and our downtown. As the group of armed addicts start their day aggressively "collecting" funds near our homes and businesses to feed their habits, the volunteers simply clean up the mess that their clients created in the shelter the night before (enabling), then drive away to their homes which do not have a front-row view of the issues that affect us (denial).

Bottom line is that we cannot have the shelter open in that location again. The board members have stated that the city has directed them to find a more appropriate location, which implies that the city and board are aware that the previous location is not appropriate.

It would be my preference to work quietly with the city and board to agree that a shelter will not open for any period of time in the Methodist Church, or anywhere near our neighborhood, and help them find an appropriate location. However, if the board is somehow unable to hear our voices and acknowledge that the issues that they have created for our neighborhood have passed the point of intolerable, we will create a petition to ensure our safety by stopping the shelter from re-opening.

It appears that the board thought they were going to present their agenda to the neighbors last night, after which they presumed that we would thank and congratulate them. It did not appear that they were prepared to listen to our concerns. I propose that we have a meeting with affected parties, including neighbors, city officials and downtown business owners, wherein we can share our concerns and provide input on what services the board can provide, and where they can be provided. I would be happy to help organize such a meeting.

Please note that I have copied Brett Estes, Kevin Cronin, Mayor LaMear, Councilor Price, Tom Leiner, Kris Haefker and Pastor Bill. I believe that they should all be part of the conversation.

CITY OF ASTORIA
JUL 21 2017
BUILDING CODES

Thank you again for your response and for your concern in this matter.

Respectfully,

Sean Fitzpatrick, General Manager
Wecoma Partners, Ltd.
1046 Grand Avenue
PO Box 777
Astoria, OR 97103
503-325-2280
csrefitz@aol.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Sarah Lu Heath <sarah@astoriadowntown.com>
To: Sean Fitzpatrick <csrefitz@aol.com>
Cc: Dulcye Taylor (external) <dulcye@gmail.com>
Sent: Mon, Jun 12, 2017 10:26 am
Subject: RE: Meeting This Evening about Homeless Shelter

Hi Sean,

They picked a heck of a weekend with Pride and the Music Festival going on. I went to a meeting with the City regarding the warming center and they're well aware that many downtown businesses are just as concerned as you are about the transient problem. Interestingly, I gave one of the ministers my card and asked to be invited to this meeting. That certainly didn't happen.

At this point, I'm not sure how to address the warming center. They're now going through proper channels to get permitted. I do know that the City has strongly stated that 90 days is the limit for having the shelter open.

I've copied Dulcye on the reply, and will discuss it with the board this evening at our meeting.

Thanks for letting me know,
Sarah Lu

Sarah Lu Heath
Executive Director
Astoria Downtown Historic District Association
No.1-12th Street, Suite 114
PO Box 261
Astoria, OR 97103
503.791.7940
www.AstoriaDowntown.com

From: Sean Fitzpatrick [<mailto:csrefitz@aol.com>]
Sent: Sunday, June 11, 2017 9:26 AM

To: Sarah Lu Heath <sarah@astoriadowntown.com>; sarah@downtownastoria.com

Subject: Meeting This Evening about Homeless Shelter

CITY OF ASTORIA
JUL 21 2017
BUILDING CODES

Hi Sarah Lu,

If you are in town, and not going to the Music Festival opening, you might be interested in going to the neighborhood meeting for the homeless shelter.

Last year a group, led by a woman from Portland, turned the Warming Center into a de-facto Homeless Shelter, with a zero threshold. People came from out of the area to stay at what they saw as a dream come true- a place that provides a great dinner meal, a warm bed, a shower (if desired) and breakfast. The volunteers would even clean up after them. No catch- show up stoned or drunk! And they did show up. From out of the area and out of state.

As you have read, the homeless problem last fall/this winter was worse than ever in Astoria. Not because of the economy, but because the woman from Portland (who was kicked out of Portland for poor management of a shelter there) was too powerful and too determined for the good-hearted locals whom she ran over, and turned our downtown into a mecca for transients.

The shelter has quietly sent notices to a few neighbors to discuss their "Good Neighbor Plan" this evening at the same time that the Music Festival kicks off. They posted a notice on their door, and sent me a flyer mid-week that they asked me to post for my tenants. I have no intention of allowing my neighborhood or our downtown to be taken over again this year and will do everything in my power to ensure that the shelter is not opened again. I will need support from those who have been affected, and ALL downtown merchants have been affected.

Sorry for short notice. June is our busiest month, and I only received the notice on Wednesday.

Thanks,

SF

Sean Fitzpatrick
csrefitz@aol.com

Re: Warming Shelter

<https://mail.aol.com/webmail-std/en-us/PrintMessage>

CITY OF ASTORIA

JUL 21 2017

BUILDING CODES

From: Brett Estes <bestes@astoria.or.us>
To: Sean Fitzpatrick <csrefitz@aol.com>
Subject: Re: Warming Shelter
Date: Thu, Dec 8, 2016 7:11 am

Attachment 4

Hi Sean,

I saw the same article yesterday. This was news to the City as well. As this length of operation does not comply with State Building / Fire code statutes I asked Chief Ames and Kevin to pay them a visit to discuss. That meeting occurred yesterday.

State of Oregon fire codes state that they can operate 90 days a year as a warming shelter in a fellowship hall. The Warming Center board members in attendance asked Chief Ames if there were exceptions to that statute. Ted stated he would ask the State Fire Marshal for our area but did not think so.

Drew always did a good job in ensuring the Center complied with the Fire Code requirement to not exceed 90 days. It seems this may not have been passed down to the new leadership after his departure.

I will ask Kevin to keep you updated as to what the State Fire Marshal states about extensions to their 90 day operational rule. Please let me know if you have questions.

Thanks,
Brett

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 7, 2016, at 6:15 PM, Sean Fitzpatrick <csrefitz@aol.com> wrote:

Hi Brett,

The article in the Daily A tonight about the "warming shelter" is very concerning for several reasons.

If it stays open every night for four months, it is a de-facto homeless shelter.

When was this discussed/approved?

I support the warming shelter, as it provides a need for people who are incapable of coming in out of the rain or otherwise unable to take care of themselves during extreme weather.

A homeless shelter- open every night- becomes a "habit" and "enables" those who would otherwise be forced to find a way to take care of themselves. The city's role or responsibility is not to enable bad habits.

Re: Warming Shelter

<https://mail.aol.com/webmail-std/en-us/PrintMessage>

This is not NIMBYism. This is in my front yard, both literally and figuratively.

Let's talk further at your convenience.

SF

Sean Fitzpatrick
csrefitz@aol.com

CITY OF ASTORIA
JUL 21 2017
BUILDING CODES

Re: Concerned Citizen Letter

<https://mail.aol.com/webmail-std/en-us/PrintMessage>

CITY OF ASTORIA

JUL 21 2017

BUILDING CODES

From: Sean Fitzpatrick <csrefitz@aol.com>
To: pastorbill@fpcastoria.org
Subject: Re: Concerned Citizen Letter
Date: Sun, Jan 22, 2017 5:59 pm

Pastor Bill,

Thank you so much for your prompt and thoughtful response. Your understanding is greatly appreciated.

SF

Sean Fitzpatrick
csrefitz@aol.com

Attachment 5

-----Original Message-----

From: Pastor Bill Van Nostran <pastorbill@fpcastoria.org>
To: Carol Prichard <carolpr7@aol.com>; First United Methodist <office@unitedmethodistastoria.org>; Alison Coffinbarger <acoffinbarger@gmail.com>; Annie Dolber <adolber@gmail.com>; Brian Mahoney <brian.mahoney210@gmail.com>; DeAnna Parkison <deepargroves@yahoo.com>; Dean Peterson <astorfire@msn.com>; Janet Miltenberger <jjjmmm@charter.net>; Michael Zametkin <mzametkin@hotmail.com>; Ron Maxted <ronmaxted@wwestsky.net>; Drew Herzig <drewherzig@yahoo.com>; Astoria Warming Center <astoriawarmingcenter@gmail.com>; Dan Parkison <danparkison911@gmail.com>
Sent: Sun, Jan 22, 2017 3:48 pm
Subject: Concerned Citizen Letter

Hello friends,

Please read the letter which I am forwarding to you (below) AND my comments which I have attached.

Proud to be enabling this worthy service -- and to seek the necessary answers -- WITH YOU!

Blessings,

Pastor Bill

Astoria First Presbyterian Church
1103 Grand Avenue
Astoria, OR 97103
(503) 325-1702

pastorbill@fpcastoria.org

From: Sean Fitzpatrick [csrefitz@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2017 12:10 PM
To: alamear@astoria.or.us; bestes@astoria.or.us; cprice@astoria.or.us; Pastor Bill Van Nostran

CITY OF ASTORIA

JUL 21 2017

BUILDING CODES

Subject: Homeless Shelter

The city has apparently extended the amount of time that they are allowing the Homeless Shelter to stay in my front yard, after which they are moving it to my backyard.

Was there an opportunity for input from the neighborhood that has been and continues to be greatly impacted by this action?

From what I understand, several churches are involved in what was originally intended to be a Warming Center. Why, then, have those multiple churches, located in other neighborhoods, not stepped up to absorb the crowds that the Homeless Shelter has drawn from throughout the area?

The 11th Street corridor has endured enough: Cigarette butts, urine, feces, broken glass, piles of clothes and blankets left around the neighborhood, hidden or in plain sight. Flashing Red Lights virtually every night in front of my home when APD and Medix invariably show up to deal with goodness knows what.

My neighbors and I plan our walks home from downtown not based on weather or the easiest route, but on where we would accompany each other as we "run the gauntlet" of homeless people lined up from Commercial Street to City Hall to the Elks and up to The Illahee, aggressively pestering us for money, marijuana or alcohol. From what they tell us, some of them "can't go in to the shelter without getting stoned!"

We have seen families with children hesitate to enter the shelter due to the condition in which some of the tenants get themselves before entering.

As a compassionate person, I supported the idea of a Warming Center for those few people incapable of finding shelter for themselves during the coldest nights. I donated a high quality, high capacity washer and dryer set as well as new socks and underwear, wool coats, warm clothing and cash. This was based on the premise that the Warming Center would be open on nights when temperatures were predicted to drop below 35 degrees. Last year we were told that 35 seemed arbitrary, and the "cutoff" was raised to 38 degrees, then 40, then we were told that it was just going to remain open until mid-March. No input from neighbors sought.

Last year I was told that the neighbors would have a chance to comment before the "Warming Center" was reopened for this season. As involved as I am in the city and my neighborhood, I have no recollection of reading about such a meeting in the Daily A or in social media, no recollection of hearing about such meeting at the ADHDA meetings, no recollection of hearing about such a meeting at city council- and no recollection of hearing about the outcome of such a meeting.

To be clear, what is now operating in my front yard is not a Warming Center for the few unfortunates in the community that cannot find shelter on the coldest of nights. What we have is a full blown "Come As You Are" Homeless Shelter, attracting people from out of the area because the Shelter has a policy of allowing people in any condition.

As a person who has considerable experience dealing with people with addiction, I am very aware that a Homeless Shelter such as the city is allowing to be operated in my front yard does more harm to the clients than good. "Open EVERY Night Regardless of Weather, Welcome Regardless of Condition" shelters enable people to continue their addictive behavior.

Routine is a synonym for Habit. Habit is a synonym for addiction. By allowing addicts to routinely enter the de facto Homeless Shelter regardless of weather or their personal condition, then having the volunteers *clean up after them* (but only on church property, ignoring the mess going up and down 11th Street) the city and volunteers are not only enabling but encouraging the behavior that our neighborhood has endured for too long.

CITY OF ASTORIA
JUL 21 2017
BUILDING CODES

Three Questions, which I am very serious about having answered:

Why was the Warming Center allowed to morph into a de facto Homeless Shelter in the first place?

Why have no other neighborhoods been asked to share the burdens associated therewith?

When do the neighbors impacted by the de facto Homeless Shelter have a chance to voice their concerns?

Sean Fitzpatrick, writing as a citizen, neighbor, and General Manager of one of the properties most affected by the actions of those whose lives and homes are less impacted by the Homeless Shelter.

csrefitz@aol.com

Attachment 6

CITY OF ASTORIA

JUL 21 2017

Hello friends,

Today, I received a letter of concern from a church member that, I think, is worthy of prompt attention. I must tell you: I would have dismissed such a letter as one written by a NIMBY ("not in my backyard") if I thought the author was either disinterested in the plight of the poor, afraid of what he doesn't know, or simply risk averse (i.e., staring each evening through their blinds: waiting for something to "go wrong").

However, I know Sean to be a thoughtful, involved, and compassionate man... and, from information he shares within his letter, I now recognize him to be an "early adopter" (of our concept) and advocate, as well as an early, Warming Center supporter and contributor! Consequently, his letter gives me pause...

May I respectfully suggest: not only did we need the help of people like Sean to begin this venture, but we also require the support of Sean and others like him to continue with this worthwhile outreach. And his fears/concerns can/will not be easily or successfully allayed or accommodated by further attempts at imposing more "rules/regulations" (about littering, loitering, or loud speech) on our target population.

I think these 3 issues (about vision and policy) land squarely in our laps. They ARE Board responsibilities.

LOCATION

First, I wish to acknowledge the Methodist Church for the honorable and generous use of its resources in support of our provision of such a valuable community service. I have a unique perspective and sense of what motivates them (and, frankly, hope some of my people "catch it"). And, in a time when people and resources are "stretched" in mainline churches, I recognize what the quality of this outreach means to them. "Space" is one of the only things we have to offer, and we are happy to be able to offer it...

That being said: I cannot help wondering if we are now (or are even capable of being) a good neighbor? We have gone to lengths to make certain we cleanup after our clients to the satisfaction of the church; how can we make sure the surrounding area is clean and quiet enough to please/satisfy our neighbors? Or, should we consider relocating to a place where impact will be either more tolerable or less severe?

EXPECTATION

I've even had thoughts about how fortunate I am to be able to ponder these issues from my two homes (a permanent residence in Vancouver, and a temporary, mid-week one in Astoria). I have the luxury of being able to contemplate when/if it will be "convenient" for me to volunteer at the Warming Center.

And I readily recognize that Alison, Annie, Cheryl and Janet sacrifice SO much more than I do. However, I would guess that NONE of us lives in such close proximity to the Warming Center. And regardless of our relative commitment or perception about intrinsic rewards, my guess is: we all can pick and choose how much and when we will permit the Warming Center to disrupt our routines. But Sean and his neighbors have little (or NO) choice about timing, and their sacrifices: far MORE frequent, and far LESS rewarding.

We've gone toe-to-toe with the city and state; I wonder, have we met neighbors face-to-face? Have we solicited their input and opinions? Have we tried to explain/predict what the expectations might be? Or have we, simply, offered service because we believe we should and solicited outside help so we can?

DURATION

Last, I am honored to be associated with such an intentional and palpable witness in Astoria and such a deliberate and engaging way of participating in “the solution” (rather than – the much more popular – complaining about the “problem.”) But I just have to wonder: have we now, naively (but with the VERY best of intentions), stepped over the “fine line” between a Warming Center and a “Homeless Shelter?”

I am concerned that our volunteer, food and financial support, physical accommodations, and business model – while they are welcome and remarkable for a Warming Center – might well be insufficient for a Homeless Shelter. I wonder if we are precluded from any/many of the waiver, variance, and permissions we enjoy as a Warming Center when/if we’re willing to be open for 120 consecutive nights rain or shine?

In sum, I’m committed to continue asking ourselves the tough questions and working together with you toward resolutions. And, I want to address our plans and policies – in a timely manner (certainly, before the 2017/18 “season”) – so we make response/hear Sean’s concerns, as well as those of his neighbors.

Pastor Bill

p.s. For ease of agenda creation, we can refer to these concerns as **LED** issues. And I do hope we will be able to **ILLUMINATE** ourselves (and acknowledge our neighbors) with the sincerity and intentionality their concerns deserve AND shed some **LIGHT** on mutually arrived at resolutions VERY soon, as well.

Attachment 7

CITY OF ASTORIA

JUL 21 2017

BUILDING CODES

From: kashak <kashak@comcast.net>

To: . alamear <bestes@astoria.or.us>; cprice <cprice@astoria.or.us>; pastorbill <pastorbill@gmail.com>

Cc: Haefker Kris <haefker@gmail.com>; csrefitz <csrefitz@aol.com>

Subject: Homeless Shelter

Date: Wed, Jan 25, 2017 4:29 pm

First I want to appreciate the community services being provided to individuals in need of shelter especially during the inclement weather. I am currently living and working in Portland. I have worked in social services and behavioral health for over 15 years. During this time the community services in Portland have grown and are under ongoing revision and development. Portland's planning may hold suggestions on the structuring of services in the community of Astoria.

I have a home on Grand Avenue near 11th Street, leased by three women. I am concerned the livability of the area is being negatively impacted by people utilizing the shelter or warming center. The impact will increase if the warming shelter is moved more proximate to the homes on Grand Avenue. Providing a no barrier shelter in a neighborhood creates collateral issues affecting the immediate community.

Will people be drinking and using other drugs on the street nearby the shelter? People who are altered by substance use become more impulsive and have fewer boundaries; I believe this is true of everyone. A group drinking on the street and asking for change is intimidating and potentially dangerous.

What self care facilities are available before and after the shelter hours? Is there garbage receptacles placed within easy access to gathering places? If these additional needs are left unaddressed the neighbors find garbage and human waste in their yards and on the streets. I am empathetic to the challenges of living in the open and am aware the majority of people without shelter have experienced extensive difficulty, loss and trauma prior to their arrival at a warming shelter. How best to support and collaborate with those in need of services? The customers of a low barrier shelter, what are their needs and where can they best access these services? Are they able to keep themselves and those around them safe? Are they able to respect the other members in the community? And if not, how will the community manage these issues, risks and concerns?

By offering a shelter in a neighborhood you bring in the impact of each individual's needs and capacities into the community conversation. Please consider these larger ramifications in your decision where to locate and how to manage this shelter and future warming centers in Astoria.

Thank you for your consideration,
Katharine Kavanaugh MS RN

CITY OF ASTORIA

Attachment 8

JAN 21 2017

BUILDING CODES

From: Lisa DeCicco <lisadecicco@me.com>

To: bestes <bestes@astoria.or.us>; alamear <alamear@astoria.or.us>; cprice <cprice@astoria.or.us>; pastorbill <pastorbill@fpcastoria.org>

Cc: Kris Haefker <haefker@gmail.com>; csrefitz <csrefitz@aol.com>

Subject: RE: Homeless Shelter

Date: Wed, Jan 25, 2017 4:40 pm

It has come to my attention that a simple Warming Center to serve as a compassionate outreach to those less fortunate in our Astoria community towards easing of their daily struggles when temperatures reach below freezing has grown in a Homeless Shelter.

When we bear witness to people freezing to death on the streets of not too far away Portland, it prompts some of us to move to action such as forming an organization such as Astoria Warming Center. That said, my experience of this unfolding is that it is like the canary in the coal mine— The need is presenting itself to be far greater and manifold than expected.

Some things I am concerned about:

The problems arising within the C-4 Zone have not been evaluated yet and there is motion to moving to adjacent R-3 Zone. Grand avenue residents are particularly vulnerable in this case as it is the first residential street boarding the downtown area commercial zone. Now property usage and traffic flow (pedestrian et al) that applies to downtown Astoria Commercial Zone will be imposed upon the residents and property owners of Grand Ave Residential Zone!!

I believe this should warrant Public Review and Comment to property owners within 100 feet of subjected property receive notice by mail regarding the Conditional Use Permit. It seems as though the Warming Center could use A review, some fact finding and meeting criteria in respect to what is discovered and determined as its current status.

It is the responsibility of the commission to uphold and protect the rights of residents and property owners in their decisions. Grand Avenue (Btwn 11th & 12th) is experiencing a DOWNGRADE of safety and quality of life, and SACRIFICE for every resident in reasonable proximity.

RE: to quote and support Sean Fitzpatrick's statements "The aggressive and harassing behavior, the squalor and related issues- and lack of communication and consideration by the Homeless Shelter board- have pushed the neighborhood past the breaking point."

"We want our neighborhood back. We want to feel safe when walking home and living in our neighborhood."

We don't want to be harassed, we don't want to see the filth, we don't want to see flashing red lights at night- or in the afternoon when vehicles from out of the area explode in front of our homes, and we don't want to pick up trash, broken glass, blankets and clothing around our properties each morning."

I had an opportunity to speak with Pastor Bill at length where he fielded my concerns and questions and suggestions to seek consult from other communities, such as Portland, as to how they structure and conduct operations of this kind of community service and outreach.

I am submitting this letter to further voice my concerns and present a document for reference and registry of my voice. Thank You for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Lisa M DeCicco
11354 Grand Ave.
Astoria, Oregon

SEND



Save



Spelling



Delete

Attachment 9

CITY OF ASTORIA

JUL 21 2017

Cc E

BUILDING CODES



Sean Fitzpatrick csrefitz@aol.com

To:

Subject: Fwd: Astoria Warming Center.

From: Dan Parkison <danparkison911@gmail.com>

Date: July 13, 2017 at 10:00:24 PM PDT

To: robyn@astoriaarmory.com, Annie Dolber <anniedolber@gmail.com>, Janet Miltenberger <jjjmmm@charter.net>, Mary Docherty <surroundingyouinlight@hotmail.com>

Subject: Astoria Warming Center.

Hi Robyn,

It was good to talk to you on the phone the other day. Thanks for your insights.

During our conversation, you and I discussed that the Armory space would not work for the AWC operation, as there are too many conflicts with your other existing activities.

If you would be so kind as to write me a brief email regarding this conclusion, it would be sincerely appreciated. As I mentioned, we are required in the Conditional Use Permit application to consider other locations that might be more suitable to our mission than the First United Methodist Church where we are located now.

I need the email by Sunday night, as we must submit our final documentation by Monday to the City.

Thanks so much for your time.

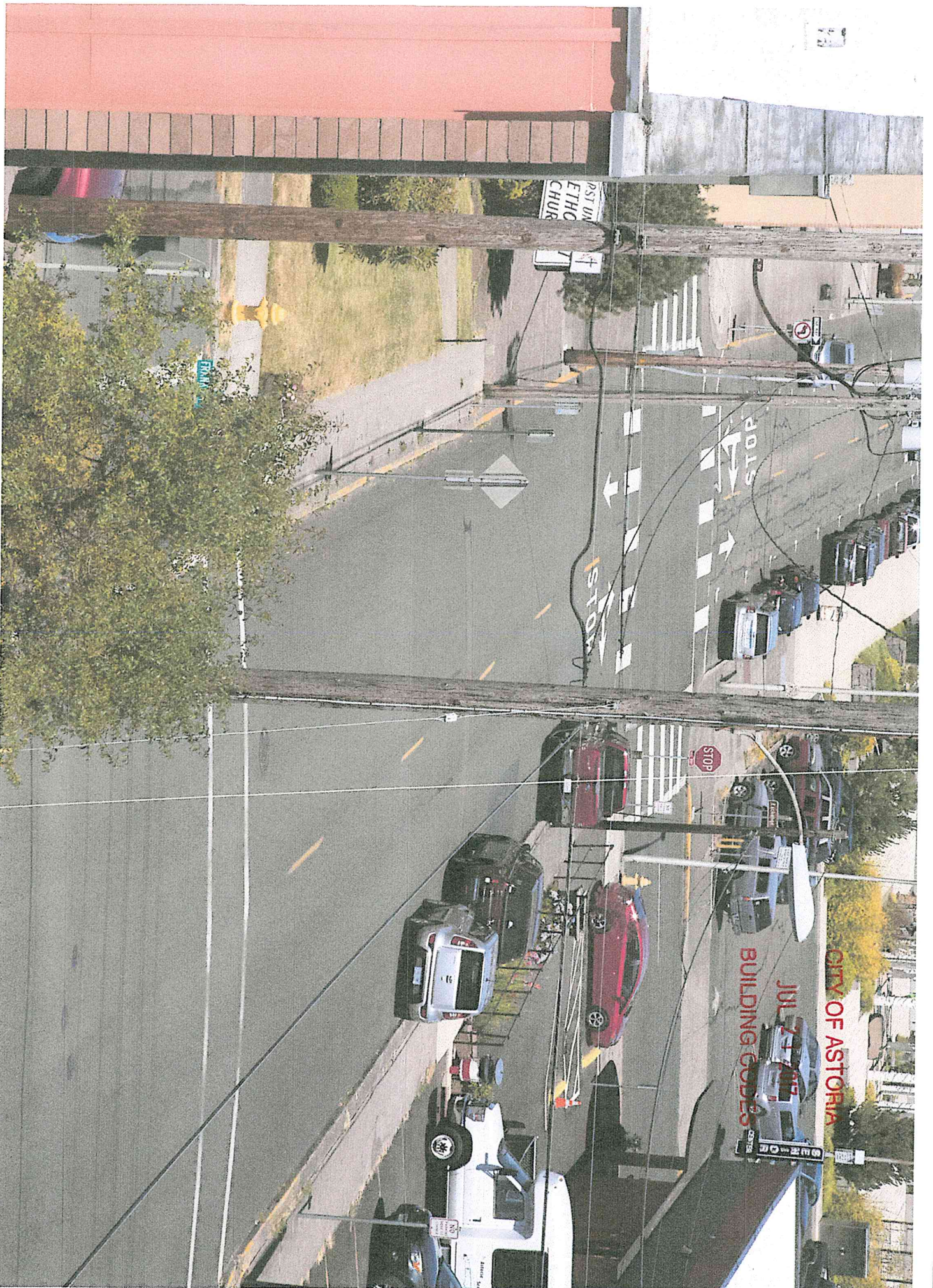


Photo 1

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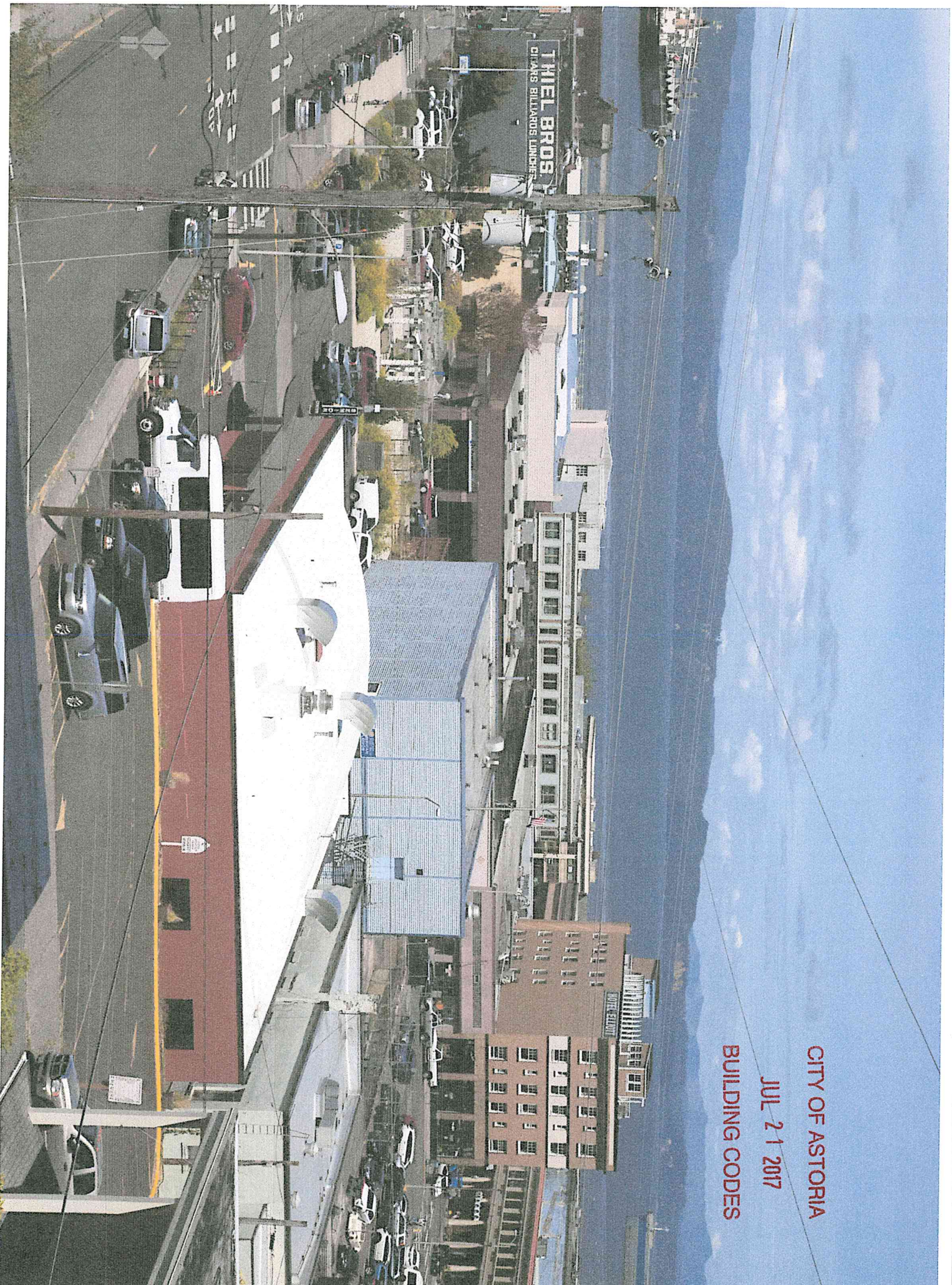


Photo 2



Photo 3