From: Mara Baumann
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Johnson st homeless shelter
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 11:26:26 AM

Hello,

I am a resident on North Ave near Russel street. I would like to voice my concerns regarding the Johnson street homeless shelter.

First of all I want to say I agree with supporting the homeless and making sure they do not suffer during the cold months. However, last year the Johnson street shelter was run very poorly. All evening ambulances and fire trucks would be zooming past my house. We found needles, broken bottles of liquor, human feces and garbage at McCleod park where we go to walk the dog and my 12 year old son can play basketball and scooter around. Often there would be several drunk individuals at the McCleod shelter drinking most of the day.

I used to let my 12 year old take our dog to the railroad dog park and he would come home fearful of others on the trail that were using drugs or obviously intoxicated or mentally unstable. We no longer would let him take the dog to the park or play at McCleod unattended.

My 12 year old walks to and from the bus stop and during the winter that means walking in the dark. I anxiously wait to hear he's okay every single school day because I am scared for his safety.

I called the poverello and spoke with Emily. She explain there is no effort to stop drinking or drug abuse of the shelter residents and as long as people are behaving they are allowed to stay. I don't think this is good enough. This is a residential neighborhood and I would feel safer if there were no drugs or alcohol permitted. Please help me ensure my family's safety by pushing for no drugs or alcohol policy.

I am happy to hear there is security presence this time around. I hope that helps keep the 911 calls to a minimum and I hope the security is effective.

Thank you very much
Mara Baumann
406-396-6668