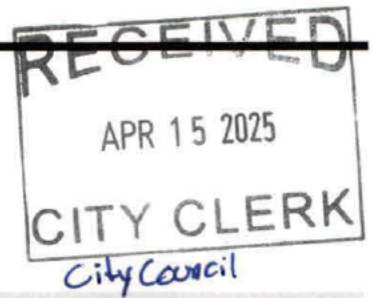


Savannah Price

From: Terry Tolley
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 2:18 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Homeless Shelter



[REDACTED]

Attached please find correspondence regarding the above which we want added to the public agenda. Thank You

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April 15, 2025

Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: Homeless Shelter

Regarding the recent development application by the YWCA to access the Dave G. Steuart Arena, we are strongly opposed to having this approved. Additionally, we are opposed to any future plans to construct and operate a homeless shelter "in the vicinity of the existing shelter."

Council has dodged around this issue for far too long, they instructed the administration to conduct meetings to obtain information and feedback on the need for a homeless shelter and these meetings were well attended. Nobody at any of these meetings denied the need for a shelter. Results of these meetings were reviewed by administration with a report provided to Council. On March 3rd, councillors now felt that they needed more answers, even though at the meetings where Councillors attended, they never asked any questions. The City Manager then advised the Councillors to provide administration with what questions or information they required in order to move forward in finalizing a concrete plan for a shelter.

Fast forward, the next the public heard about this issue was a motion passed to have a shelter located in the vicinity of the existing location. Fast forward again to a letter dated April 7th received in the mailbox April 11th stating that a temporary shelter operated by the YWCA for two years would be in the existing Dave G. Steuart Arena.

Regarding the Dave Steuart Arena, this issue too has been tossed around by Council, the last discussion on this item was that the City would receive proposals from any parties interested in obtaining this facility, never did we see or hear about a formal RFP in that regard.

Prior to the City moving forward with their latest proposal there are many questions that the taxpayers should know the answers to. Will the YWCA be responsible for building and liability insurance? Will the YWCA be responsible for all utilities (water, heat, power, snow removal, security?) Will the YWCA be responsible for all renovations required to make the facility meet all fire and building requirements?

Another issue that has never been provided to the taxpayers, is whether the City/YWCA received a firm commitment on funding a new shelter, if obtained how much? I observed a council meeting in Saskatoon where a councillor indicated that the delay they were having in moving forward was a lack of commitment of funding from the province.

Transparency was a major issue discussed during the election, Council has failed in meeting this objective, very evident by the recent notification provided to residents within 150 metres of the proposed site allowing them four days from the time they received the notice to submit a response and prepare a presentation, for such a contentious issue.

Results of the meetings and survey indicated that the number one concern expressed by 66% of respondents was that the shelter should be located close to the services that are utilized by clients - this was also stated by the YWCA at the Midtown hall meeting. It is

time for Council to listen to the people that elected them to make decisions, some of these are hard decisions but that is what is expected from each of you.

Terry & Diane Tolley

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