

Attachment A

Proposed Homeless Shelter/Navigation Facility

Key Questions from Alexis St. Juliana, a College Gate resident for Anchorage Mayor Bronson and Assembly

I write to express my concern about the hastily planned shelter for those experiencing housing insecurity at East Tudor and Elmore roads. I strongly believe that Anchorage should act quickly to ensure safe shelter and a path to long-term housing for all Anchorage residents. However, the recent proposal strikes me as I'll conceived.

I respectfully ask that the incoming Mayor and assembly enlist an impartial research team to conduct a rapid assessment how this particular site will address current needs and yield sustainable solutions in this ongoing crisis. Such as assessment could ascertain how to best use local funding and resources AND meet the needs of our neighbors in need. As I read in local media, the proposal involves the expenditure of up to \$15 million, and likely more funds in the future. Before allocating resources, the city should do its due diligence to make sure this is the right solution. An assessment could address questions such as:

- Are those experiencing housing insecurity comfortable and willing to stay at a facility of this size in that location?
- To what extent will a facility in the proposed location meet the day-to-day needs for transportation to other points in the city for employment, education, medical care, and/or shopping?
- What percentage of the shelter population is likely to access services at the native medical center, versus other medical facilities in Anchorage?
- What are the most needed amenities among those experiencing housing insecurity and living at short-term facilities?
- Would a facility of the proposed type and in the proposed location also offer park benches, playground equipment, or other outdoor recreation opportunities on-site (e.g., basketball hoops)? (An online presentation suggests "secure space for outdoor gatherings," but it isn't clear what that means, and it isn't legible in the site plan).
- What proportion of the shelter population is likely to be newly vs. repeatedly experiencing housing insecurity?
- Given the question above, what is the likelihood that the proposed site becomes permanent?
- How would a tent structure like the one proposed appreciate/depreciate in value over time? What is the lifespan of such a structure?
- Would investment in a location with a permanent structure allow a better opportunity for the city to invest in real estate that would appreciate in value over time?