

Proposed Homeless Facility - Important Issues

Thank you. I'm Paul Stang, President of the University Area Community Council.

We fully acknowledge that more homeless services are needed in Anchorage. We commend Mayor-Elect Bronson for addressing the issue, but many of our members have legitimate concerns with his proposal. Multiple thefts have been reported by neighbors near the Rescue Mission on Tudor. How will the Muni secure nearby neighborhoods?

Conflicts between hikers, bikers and homeless people will increase as will fire danger.

Can people come for meals only? If so, many will congregate.

This huge facility, capable of housing up to 1000 clients, is at high-risk for Health & Safety Issues. The low barrier proposal implies clients can come and go at will 24/7. Will they be monitored 24/7?

Unfortunately, among homeless people, are those with mental health challenges, sex offenders and substance abusers. How will you protect women and children in the facility when there is no reasoning with clients under the influence? Clients also have easy access via trails to UAA and APU campuses, student housing, residential and business areas.

There may be transmission of disease and allergens, including those from pets and pet waste.

We are concerned homeless people will have a bad choice: arrest or living in a place that is not safe and sanitary.

We have seen no detailed cost estimates for purchase, transport, construction, staffing, operation and maintenance.

What construction and operations costs are not in the estimate? What % of the \$15 million will be from NGOs?

We've seen no detailed plans for meals, medical and mental health services, counselling, case management, sanitation and security. No statements of support from any of the co-sponsoring organizations; no Plan B and no public information website. In a sense, we are being asked to buy a "pig in a poke".

The Muni should further consider existing structures like the former Mid-town Alaska Club with the addition of a 200-person temporary building instead.

Will there be childcare and kennel services?

We request all Project information be shared publicly on a MUNI website that is updated weekly. We request the new Mayor issue a detailed schedule by July 6, so stakeholders can understand this project. It should include all milestones for the critical decisions necessary to start operations by the onset of winter.