

Good evening John -

Here are the questions that came up after you had to leave the community council meeting. We would appreciate the administration's answers to these questions so that we can share them with the area residents. I've copied the community council president here so we can be sure to get these out asap in advance of any potential assembly action.

Thanks!

In a city that already experiences extreme shortages of behavioral health and substance use treatment professionals, how will this demand be possibly met?

Staffing is, has been, and for the foreseeable future likely will be challenging in Alaska, particularly so in the health care space. By locating behavioral health services in one location helps this staffing challenge immensely as compared to attempting to staff multiple centers throughout our city.

Is this administration's intention to clear camps once shelter is built?

The administration intends to continue camp abatements.

Can you speak to the deadline tomorrow to accept deal by previous admin to purchase the midtown AC? I understand this is shovel ready, no contingencies to be able to "provide a warm bed to persons who need them" Will this be accepted tomorrow?

I do not know that the Alaska Club would provide beds on a shorter time line than the proposed structure. As I said in our meeting I am not able to speak to what the Mayor will decide on this issue.

Can you speak to the cuts to the program to remove spruce beetle kill? What about the cost of moving APD's storage lot?

I do not have additional comments above those of last night regarding beetle kill funding. Total cost for moving the APD lot is \$659,367.

Who is going to run and staff the proposed facility?

That will be determined by RFP process.

What is the administration's plan to address the root causes leading to our friends and neighbors to need shelter? As far as I can tell there are no concrete plans addressing gaps in existing social services will go a long way to keeping our friends

and neighbors from experiencing homelessness. This should be the focus of the new administration, imagine what \$15 million could do.

Prevention is an important part of the administration's planning for homelessness. Establishing affordable housing for our working poor, creating opportunities to generate generational equity, childcare, and intervening in patterns of trauma and substance use both inside and outside the city limits of Anchorage will all have impacts and are efforts that are proceeding in parallel with this first, next step of establishing adequate shelter capacity.

We have imagined what \$15 million could do, and thought even of what even more could do. The first thing that we must accomplish is keeping our neighbors safe however and that is why we are currently focused on the shelter while the longer lead time solutions are implemented.

Given the amount of the proposed investment and that this shelter is highly unlikely to be temporary, I urge the council to fund a rapid assessment of alternatives. Such an assessment could explore the multiple concerns my neighbors bring about the suitability of the proposed shelter. It could also identify an option that includes the purchase of permanent structure that could appreciate in value over time, rather than squander resources. The Council and Mayor owe Anchorage residents and taxpayers this step of due diligence. Will the new administration support such an assessment?

Such assessments have been conducted over the past several months. Time is a critical factor

Can we answer why the Sullivan has a deadline to vacate?

My understanding is that the existing contract for shelter services at the Sullivan is set to expire on September 15 and the first hockey game is scheduled for October 7. The deadline which is on our minds, however, is winter.

If we are spending \$15,000,000 for a facility that houses 428 people, that is an average of \$35,000 per person. Is that a good value for our money?

It is a tremendous value for the money, particularly when compared to other published alternatives. Not only can the facility house many persons it can provide services to them and also double as a disaster facility.

I believe Dr. Morris mentioned they already discussed a plan for wildfire mitigation . I would like to know what this plan is. Also I would like to know why a model like that used by the va domiciliary has not been discussed. If the goal is the humane one dr. Morris suggests he has in mind than the VA Dom seems like the place to look for inspiration. Finally why not a second location like the Northway Mall be considered.

The Northway mall is not currently being considered but was examined in the past. I will get you the technical language for the wildfire mitigation plan next week. The VA domiciliary program, or the MH RRTP, is more supportive housing than shelter/navigation. Multiple permanent supportive housing programs are being considered.

We also need more information on all the costs for the proposed facility as well as running it.

These will be forthcoming with the AIM and follow on documentation.

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Dena'inaq elnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. (Dena'ina)

I live and work on Dena'ina land. (English) ~ Translation by Joel Isaak and Sondra Shaginoff-Stuart