

March 30, 2021

City of Madison Alders



Dear City Alders,

I write submit this letter of support on behalf of the Homeless Services Consortium of Dane County (HSC) in reference to Item 54., File #63920 on your March 31st agenda, concerning the decision to purchase the property at 2002 Zeier Rd for homeless men's shelter. We strongly encourage you to purchase this property and move ahead with planning and implementation for the first-ever purpose-built shelter for homeless men in Madison.

The HSC represents a diverse host of almost 90 organizations, funders and divisions of local government dedicated to serving the most vulnerable people in our community. Our membership also includes many formerly homeless individuals whose experience informs our work. While our membership and specializations are varied, our concerns are seldom parochial. We collectively recognize the critical role that the homeless men's shelter plays in our community. There is no alternate program or place that serves this extremely vulnerable cohort of people. And that program is currently running down the clock in a very temporary location.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced a change in the way we recognize the homeless among us and, by extension, the way we commit to serving them. The opportunity to create a purpose-built shelter represents an inflection point for us as a community; the confluence of the pandemic, federal funding, and local commitment have finally come together with the potential to do this right for the first time. The decision before you on 3/31 to move ahead with this purchase is a critical step in that direction. The Homeless Services Consortium implores you to take that step.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service.

Brad Hinkfuss – President, Homeless Services Consortium of Dane County

Cc: HSC Board of Directors, Jim O'Keefe, Linette Rhodes