

**From:** [Paul Schmidt](#)  
**To:** [External-Clerks](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Emergency Shelter in Army and Navy building  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 11:44:53 AM

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I am writing my objection to the Purpose Society's proposal to operate an Emergency Shelter in the Army and Navy building.

This mirrors and further frustrates my (and many downtown residents) concerns about the proposed housing on 6th Street, in that within a 4 block radius there are 4 other types of transitional/supportive housing systems already here, and that it results in many of the problems that come with drug addiction (such as dangerous discarded needles, dodgy drug dealers lurking about, petty crime, women feeling like they can't go out after dark, dirtiness, human waste, etc). With another type of supportive housing or shelter in the downtown core, the negative effects on our community will be amplified. If we wish to rejuvenate Columbia Street (which we desperately need to) we need to focus on attracting businesses and cleaning it up. Businesses will not want to come here if the drug scene is further proliferated. How about trying to entice some type of grocery store to operate in the Army and Navy building, and then perhaps the high school that is there now could move to an upper floor or the basement? I thought the high school was a great idea, but an emergency shelter, not a great idea.

It's really not fair for downtown NW residents that we have so many of these types of supportive housing/shelters concentrated in such a small area. Again, I would not be complaining if this were the first one. It's absolutely unfair that areas like Queens Park, west of the Quay, or Sapperton don't have any or nearly the amount that the downtown core has. When you have to live with this every day, watching your step to avoid needles, human waste, seeing boarded up storefronts with broken windows, your opinion changes. Also, this supports the elephant-in-the-room problem, which is proliferated drug addiction and the challenging impact it is having on our community. Why always right downtown? It's too much, honestly.

Thank you for listening,  
Paul Schmidt  
Downtown NW resident