

From: [Brenda Southam](#)
To: [External-Clerks](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TUP00027 - Public Comment
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 12:42:21 PM
Attachments: [NO to TUP 11-21.pdf](#)

Attached please find my submission for the TUP public comment.

Thank you
Brenda

November 5, 2021

City of New Westminster
City Council
511 Royal Avenue
New Westminster, BC V3L 1H9

I am writing today regarding the temporary use permit that is being requested by Lower Mainland Purpose Society to run an emergency shelter at 502 Columbia St., the Army & Navy Department Store building. I live at 549 Columbia Street, which is directly across the street from the proposed shelter.

The information received advises it could be an Extreme Weather Response Program Shelter which would be open from November 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022 and my understanding is it would be for sleeping only and then the occupants would be on the streets during the day.

The other piece that is in the notice is that it could be an Emergency Response Shelter, which would operate 24/7 for up to 18 months or until new supportive housing is in place. The shelter would provide up to 50 mats or beds, serve adults and could offer support services. What services this Emergency Response Shelter would provide has not been specified. How do I know that the services provided will actually help the community?

The last piece of information says that this temporary use permit would allow the emergency shelter to operate for three years, with an option to renew for an additional three years subject to Council consideration. That is ambiguous at best.

As a resident of New Westminster who will be living across the street from this facility, and the ONLY residential housing across street, I am opposed to this type of usage for the Army & Navy Department Store building. I do understand that there is some sort of a need, although there are four transition houses within a three-block radius of my home as well as a safe injection site. This brings its own element with it and in the last 6 months I have been overwhelmed with the different element on our street. I have harassed, yelled at and scared to leave my home after dark and that is not an acceptable way to live as a taxpayer.

I ask that this permit not be approved for the following reasons:

1. I do not know what exactly the permit is being approved for? I would like some clarity on what exactly is being approved.
2. I believe that is type of shelter will bring more of the above noted element to our community which I do not want. How afraid do I have to be in order for me to get assistance?
3. I have no idea what services are being offered by the provider.
4. There is no data to tell me what the benefit will be to the community, if any.

Why does this shelter need to be in the downtown core again where there are already 4 transition houses? The number of homeless I hear about continues to rise; this proves to me that these are not residents of New Westminster, they are from elsewhere coming to our community where it's easy to do as they wish.

As a taxpayer in the City, I ask that this temporary use permit not be approved.

Sincerely,

Brenda Southam
549 Columbia St., Unit #####