

From: [Shannon Austin](#)
To: [External-Clerks](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to Emergency Shelter
Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 10:02:06 PM

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I am commenting upon the request for opinion on a potential emergency shelter opening at 502 Columbia Street.

My parents live close by, at ### Columbia Street. They are retired, and they spent their savings on this beautiful condo. However, with the current epidemic of addicts, their own safety is challenged daily, whether they're trying to walk their dog or bring groceries home. I refuse to welcome more of this obvious hazard to the neighbourhood that my parents have spent their live savings on. I refuse to accept the littered needles, human feces, and outright VIOLENCE that would put my senior parents in danger. I refuse to let Columbia Street become a hang-out for those who partake in illegal activity.

In a perfect world, an emergency shelter would be just that: a shelter to provide housing for those during vulnerable times. That being said, until the drug epidemic can be taken care of, this is simply going to be everyone's problem and I refuse to allow my parents, who have done nothing but CONTRIBUTE to society, to suffer. Thank you.

--

Shannon P. Austin, Certified Esthetician and Makeup Artist

Gillian Day

From: External-Clerks
Subject: FW: Emergency Shelter Temporary Use Permit at 502 Columbia Street - Response to Inquiry

From: John Stark <jstark@newwestcity.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 2:43 PM
To: Shannon Austin
Cc: External-Dev Feedback <devfeedback@newwestcity.ca>
Subject: Emergency Shelter Temporary Use Permit at 502 Columbia Street - Response to Inquiry

Shannon:

Thank you for your e-mail and sharing your concerns.

The emergency shelter in question will be temporary in nature and is intended to get individuals off the street and into shelter. It could either be an extreme weather response program shelter, which would operate between November 1 and March 31 each year and be operational during extreme cold weather events; or an emergency response centre shelter, which would be in place for about 18-months or until new supportive housing in place. The former would provide up to 50 mats and would reduce the risk of exposure or death due to extreme cold weather and the latter would operate 24/7 and potentially provide support services. BC Housing would fund the emergency shelter.

For clarity, the emergency shelter would be accessed off of Front Street, and not Columbia Street, with Front Street being located several storeys below Columbia Street.

The emergency shelter would address the issues you have identified in your e-mail, including limiting the incidence of discarded needles, human waste and litter; reducing visible homelessness and camping; and enabling service providers to better meet the needs of shelter guests, including related to mental health.

I hope that answers some of your questions but I would be more than willing to discuss them further. Please feel free to phone or-email me directly.

Thank you.

John

John Stark, MCIP RPP
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City of New Westminster
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jstark@newwestcity.ca / www.newwestcity.ca
511 Royal Avenue, NW, V3L 1H9

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