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3-17-07

**Comments of Michael Gilmore, Ph.D., Executive Director, ACSB
Alexandria City Council
Special Use Permit #2007-0002
115 North Patrick Street Congregate Housing/Safe Haven
Saturday, March 17, 2007**

Good morning, Mayor Eulle, members of Council.

As we have listened to neighbors' concerns about the Safe Haven, one of the issues raised has been the cost of this program. As Mary briefly mentioned, it costs the community **not** to serve people with serious mental illnesses and /or co-occurring substance use disorders. When nothing is done, these persons often cycle between the streets, jails, and high-cost care, including emergency rooms and psychiatric hospitals. Recent studies have shown that the cost of providing permanent supportive housing for people with serious mental illnesses is more than offset by the savings incurred by public and private systems of care, such as hospitals and shelters.

The total ongoing annual operating budget for the Safe Haven, once fully operational, is about \$574,000. This cost is comparable to that of existing CSB residential programs that provide a similar level of staffing. (Anyone who has a relative in a nursing home can appreciate the annual cost of providing 24-hour-awake staffing and supportive services.)

While the annual operating budget for the Safe Haven appears relatively high, the cost of housing this population is actually about the same, and in some cases less, than not housing them, as mentioned previously. In addition, it is important to note that the City's contribution to the on-going operating costs of the Safe Haven program is only 25%, with most of the program's revenue coming from Federal and State sources. The Federal HUD funding for the Safe Haven, like all of our other HUD grants, is renewable and ongoing. The remaining operating expenses will be borne by consumer fees, Medicaid billing, and funds from the State.

Another aspect of this proposal that makes it especially attractive from a cost standpoint is that the City already owns 115 N. Patrick St. and, in addition, the City has budgeted \$795,000 in Capital Improvement Program funds for renovation of the building. This renovation would be required for any use of the building. The 115 N. Patrick Street location is one of the few properties examined over the past ten years that lends itself well to serving as many as 12 individuals in private apartments. Our experience in looking for property in Alexandria indicates that to find another location for this program, consistent with the CSB's Housing Policy, purchase land and/or a building, and renovate it to serve 12 individuals, would cost as much as, if not more than, placing the program at the 115 N. Patrick Street site.

Although our focus of attention this morning is on Safe Haven, it is important to understand that this program will be just one component in an array of outpatient, day support, residential, and prevention programs offered by the CSB. With a staff of 350, we served 3,682 Alexandrians last year. We have been doing this business for more than 35

years. Our programs are closely and collaboratively linked with those provided by police, social services, health department, schools, and other human service providers.

The Safe Haven program will be a critical component in our array of services and programs. It will be as closely and collaboratively linked with other providers as all of our other programs are.

Finally, I want to point out that our Board and Department staff members have done more outreach to neighbors of this property than for any other project in the CSB's 25-year history of placing residential programs. Carol Layer, the CSB's Director of Extended Care, will describe that outreach, as well as other issues of concern raised by the neighbors of the facility.

Comments of Mary Riley, Chair, Alexandria Community Services Board
City Council Public Hearing
Safe Haven, Docket Item #2007-0002
March 17, 2007

Mary Riley
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3-17-07

Mayor Euille, Council Members,

Ten years ago, Safe Haven was identified as one of the highest-priority gaps in the City's homeless continuum of care by Alexandria's *Homeless Services Coordinating Committee*, a coalition of 35 public and private entities.

At that time, considerable research was done on various programs throughout the country, and the "Housing First" or "Safe Haven" program, was identified as a proven, nationally-recognized model for providing housing and services to the chronic street homeless population. Research demonstrated that once residents are housed and provided with a safe, welcoming, and stable environment, they grow to trust treatment workers and engage in services.

National statistics indicate that the chronic street homeless population makes up only 10% of the total homeless population, yet they utilize more than 50% of the resources devoted to the homeless due to their multiple hospitalizations and in and out use of shelters.

These findings spurred a national effort to move people off the street and into housing. Each year when we apply to HUD for funding – and Alexandria gets about \$730,000 a year in HUD funding – we are required to demonstrate how much progress we are making in meeting this objective.

Over the years, you have recognized the importance of the Safe Haven initiative by approving its inclusion into the *City's Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development*, by creating a *Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Alexandria*, and by incorporating Safe Haven into your own Strategic Plan.

In the year 2000, there were 38 Safe Havens funded by HUD; in 2006, that number had grown to 104 Safe Havens located in 47 different states.

Safe Havens have been successfully operated in nearby jurisdictions for the past several years. Both Arlington and Fairfax Counties operate Safe Havens in residential neighborhoods and you'll be hearing directly from the managers of those programs today.

For the past five years, the City's annual Point-in-Time or "snapshot" count of homeless individuals in Alexandria has identified 400-500+ homeless persons, with the unsheltered chronic street homeless population averaging 80-100 men and women in each year. Another 40-60 individuals participate in the winter hypothermia program and thus are unsheltered in the warmer months of the year. As you can see from these statistics, there are many men and women who could potentially benefit from a Safe Haven program. (See statistics below from this year's Point-in-Time count.)

Many of the potential Safe Haven residents are long-term Alexandrians, have attended City schools, and have families who have lived here for generations. Some are aging veterans. The Safe Haven residents will be known to the CSB's outreach staff, who have worked with this population for many years. You'll be hearing today from Lynn Fritts, one of those CSB outreach workers.

Finally, our Board's Housing Policy, approved by City Council, requires that every attempt be made to place new CSB housing in those areas with the lowest proportion of existing special needs housing. This policy, which received recognition at a national housing conference as a model policy for managing the placement of special needs housing, requires that we disperse our housing programs throughout the City. This policy was developed because of the existing uneven distribution of facilities, for example, there are 21 special needs facilities in Del Ray, and 2 in Old Town. The 115 N. Patrick Street site falls just 1/2 block away from the Old Town area, which has the lowest density of special needs housing in the City.

The 115 N. Patrick Street site was previously used by the CSB for 24 years as a Clubhouse day program for 60+ persons with severe mental illness, substance use disorders and similar histories as the Safe Haven consumers. Staff using the building numbered about 30. We believe the impact of Safe Haven, with 12 residents and a maximum of 6 staff members, will be significantly less than the previous program at that site.

Dr. Michael Gilmore, the CSB's Executive Director, will describe why the 115 N. Patrick Street location is the most cost-effective site that we have identified for the Safe Haven.

2007 Point-In-Time Count Homeless Persons in Alexandria, Virginia

Total Number of Homeless – 404

Unsheltered Homeless* – 130 (109 men and 21 women)

Unsheltered Homeless With:

Chronic Health Problems – 36

Physical Disability - 12

Over 50 years old – 21

Veterans – 23

***Includes 40 individuals staying in hypothermia shelter.**

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3-17-07

Comments of Carol Layer, Division Director, Extended Care Services, DMHM RSA
City Council Public Hearing
Safe Haven, Docket Item #2007-0002
March 17, 2007

We recognize from our 25 years of siting residential programs, that regardless of the place, the process, the price, or the population to be served, neighbors always have great fears and mistrust when special needs housing is to be located in their neighborhood. The Safe Haven has been no exception. Understanding these fears, the CSB has been involved in community outreach efforts with neighbors for the past 2-½ years and that is what I would like to tell you about now.

The CSB's community outreach activities for the Safe Haven date to June 2004, when City Council first identified Patrick Street as the intended Safe Haven site for the HUD grant application. Since then, the CSB has sponsored seven community meetings; attended two civic association meetings; offered to meet with any individual or group upon request; responded to numerous phone contacts and emails from interested individuals; and sent out 16 mass mailings, each to as many as 200 property owners, renters, businesses, and business and civic associations. The CSB has made available extensive information through the Safe Haven web page which includes, but is not limited to, FAQs, the HUD grant application, meeting summaries, policy material, and information on property values. The CSB also heard the testimony of citizens at the three public hearings that were part of the B.A.R. approval and appeal process and, most recently, at the Planning Commission hearing for this SUP on March 6. As a result of suggestions by some neighbors, the CSB arranged for tours of another Safe Haven program in the region and the CSB's Clubhouse program, so that neighbors could become more familiar with the Safe Haven program and with the population of people that the Safe Haven will serve.

All of this activity provided the opportunity for us to learn about and respond to neighbors' questions and concerns about the project and, wherever possible, to incorporate program modifications to address their concerns. We have found that the neighbors' concerns tend to fall into three areas: 1) Safety; 2) Property Values; and 3) Compatibility of the program in the neighborhood.

Safety

Neighbors have expressed their fears that we will be serving a dangerous population at the Safe Haven and that the program model and program operations will not provide for the safety of the community.

Our record of serving over 700 people in just the past 10 years in 63 different sites across the city demonstrates that we are responsible and responsive neighbors. No serious community incidents have occurred as a result of our residential programs. Police data show that our existing residential programs that serve a similar population

do not correlate to heightened police activity. Alexandria Police representatives attended the February community meeting and are here to answer any questions you may have.

We have heard neighbors express that the Safe Haven is very different from our other residential programs and different from the Clubhouse program that was at 115 N. Patrick St for over 20 years because taking medication and requiring abstinence from substance use will not be part of the Safe Haven's Housing First model. However, our existing residential and Clubhouse programs really are *not* so dissimilar from the Safe Haven. All of these programs serve people who may have been homeless; who may not be on medication; and who may be in an active state of their addiction. We work with these consumers as we will work with the Safe Haven residents to engage them in treatment, and we will not tolerate behaviors in any of our programs that are disruptive or dangerous. And while a low demand model is a key component to the success of the Safe Haven, the Safe Haven will be a treatment program and therefore we will require that every resident agree to work with the staff toward living a substance free lifestyle and improving his or her psychiatric health.

Because of some neighbors' worries that the residents may be dangerous, some have proposed that neighbors be involved in the screening process of residents or be informed about backgrounds of the residents. While we want to do everything possible to make the neighbors less fearful, state and federal confidentiality laws, as well as professional ethics, prohibit our disclosure of any information that we obtain through our professional relationship with the Safe Haven residents. We have assured the neighbors that the Safe Haven residents will be people who are known to the CSB and that our screening process will be rigorous and will exclude anyone determined to present a risk to self or others. If we assess it to be necessary, drug screens, criminal record checks, or other pre-admission requirements may be implemented on an individual basis to determine the appropriateness or inappropriateness of a person's acceptance into the program. Complete admission and exclusionary criteria can be found in FAQ #10.

Neighbors have asked that we establish a curfew to prevent residents from coming and going at night. In response to these concerns, but to remain in compliance with Virginia Human Rights regulations, we have included in the program rules, the expectation that residents will be in the building between 11 PM –7 AM, unless prior arrangements are made. This practice is consistent with the operations of our current mental health and substance abuse residential programs. We can readily agree with the Planning and Zoning staff's recommended condition #6 which establishes quiet hours between 11 PM-7 AM and, indeed, we will not tolerate any Safe Haven resident being noisy or disruptive in or outside of the facility at any hour of the day or night. Extensive rules have been established for the Safe Haven and are described in FAQ #19.

Neighbors have also expressed concerns about the presence of children in the neighborhood and the proximity of Jefferson Houston elementary school 6 blocks away. Just as the Clubhouse participants did not represent a threat to the school or the neighborhood's children, we are confident that with the screening, monitoring, and treatment processes at the Safe Haven, the residents there will not pose a threat. The Alexandria City Public School Superintendent and the former and current school principals have been aware of the plans for the Safe Haven and have expressed no concerns for the students' safety. George Chiplock, the principal of the elementary school that is across from Max's Place, the Falls Church Safe Haven, is here to speak today.

The Patrick Street Clubhouse successfully served hundreds of people with serious mental illness at 115 N. Patrick St. for over two decades. Homeless people now live in and/or pass through the neighborhood every day. However, neighbors have voiced their concerns about the building itself and the building's location in regard to the safety and welfare of both the neighbors and the Safe Haven residents. Neighbors expressed specific concerns that the Rt. 1 corridor and King Street business area create too stimulating a setting for the mental well-being of the prospective residents. Some neighbors said that an expert medical study should be completed prior to approving the SUP to determine if 115 N. Patrick St. is a suitable site to serve formerly homeless people with mental illness. Over the past five years, at least eleven licensed mental health professionals specializing in serving Alexandrians with serious mental illness and substance use disorders have been involved in the site selection process, research, grant writing, planning and program design for the Safe Haven. Collectively, these professionals have over 100 years of experience in program development, residential program management, homeless outreach, and clinical treatment services. In the judgment of these experts, right here in our own Department, 115 N. Patrick St. is not only a safe site, but an ideal site for the Safe Haven.

Neighbors also have expressed concerns about the building's roof deck. They worry that the Safe Haven residents might peer into the neighbors' homes and that the roof deck creates a potential hazard because residents might throw cigarettes off of the roof or throw themselves or other residents off of the roof. Some of the CSB's 63 existing residential sites have upper story balconies and we have never found that this has created an unsafe condition for the residents. We do recognize the potential hazards associated with smoking, by anyone, on a roof deck or anywhere else, and fully support recommended condition #7, as amended by the Planning Commission, which states: "Smoking materials are prohibited from being thrown from or dropped off the roof at any time." In the design of the Safe Haven, John Savage, the Project Architect, has been responsive to numerous concerns expressed by the neighbors, including those related to the roof deck. His design includes a sunken deck that is surrounded by high parapet walls, set back from the building edge, and bordered with a railing. The design will inhibit people from nearing the edge of the roof or throwing anything over the edge of the roof and the resulting sight lines do not allow for people

standing on the roof deck to peer onto surrounding properties. If Council members would like more information on any aspect of the building design, Mr. Savage is here today to provide that. We also have an architectural scale model here so you can have a clearer understanding of the roof deck design.

Property Values

Neighbors of the project have voiced their fears that the presence of the Safe Haven will diminish the values of neighboring properties. In fact, we are aware of considerable research that finds that special needs housing does NOT have a negative impact on property values. In preparation for the recent lawsuit, the city hired a certified real estate appraiser to analyze the impact of supported housing programs on adjacent housing prices in Alexandria and the surrounding region. The appraiser found that the conversion of 115 N. Patrick St. to a Safe Haven facility would have no discernable or measurable impact on housing prices in the neighborhood. This study is included in your packet starting at page 55. Oakleigh Thorne, who authored the report, is here to speak today and can answer any questions you may have.

Compatibility of the Safe Haven with the surrounding neighborhood

Some neighbors have stated that though they support the establishment of a Safe Haven in the City, they do not believe that it belongs at 115 N. Patrick St., feeling that the proposed residents are not appropriate to be housed in a residential and commercial/retail/tourist area. However, the majority of Safe Havens across the country are located in just such mixed commercial/residential neighborhoods.

Over the past 25 years, Patrick Street Clubhouse served many hundreds of people with serious mental illness and substance use disorders in the exact same location. Moreover, the vast majority of the prospective residents of the Safe Haven is already in the neighborhood and is receiving services from other service providers in and around Old Town on a daily basis, accessing meal programs and a day program for the street homeless.

The neighbors have indicated that an impact study on business and tourism is warranted before this project is approved. They fear that the concentration of 12 formerly homeless people in the area will negatively impact business and tourism and that the Safe Haven will be incompatible with the plans and progress already made through the King Street Retail Strategy Plan. However, we learned at the Planning Commission Public Hearing on March 6 that two current Commission members sat on the King Street Retail Strategy Advisory Committee. In the words of one member in reference to the Safe Haven, "we don't see that this would hurt any aspect of the retail we were trying to foster on King St....."

Everyone acknowledges that there are, right now, homeless people living throughout the City, including in Old Town and the King Street business area, and that the presence of people living on the streets can detract from a positive image for the City. The literature describes that supportive housing programs like the Safe Haven, rather than exacerbating the impact of homeless people on businesses, have been part of the solution to the problem of homelessness in numerous urban communities around the country, including Philadelphia; San Diego; Columbus, OH; and Birmingham, AL. We are confident that Recommended Conditions #9 and #15 in the staff report – specifically the development of a Neighborhood Advisory Group and the SUP review processes—provide effective mechanisms for continuous evaluation of any impact of the Safe Haven on the neighborhood. The CSB has had a great deal of experience developing and participating in Neighborhood Advisory Committees and we will welcome residential, civic association, and business neighbors’ involvement in such a group for as long as the community wishes.

Neighbors have said that they are afraid that the presence of the Safe Haven residents in the neighborhood will attract drug dealers and increase criminal activity. We think it is important to keep in mind that many of the prospective residents of the Safe Haven already are in the area and the Safe Haven will provide a greater level of support and monitoring than is currently possible. Because of their fears, neighbors have asked if we would agree to refuse admission to any individual who had a history of two or more arrests for drug or alcohol related offenses. We will be taking a very thorough history of every referral to the Safe Haven that will address far more than this specific criterion and the individual’s legal history will be considered as part of a comprehensive and multivariate risk assessment. Based on our experience, exclusion of people only on the basis of their having had two or more arrests for a drug or alcohol related charge would be neither necessary nor sufficient to manage the program safely. In response to the neighbors' fears, we have created program rules that require every resident to abide by good neighborly, lawful behavior. Our proposed rules are considerably more elaborated and stringent even than those at the other Safe Havens in the region. Even though the CSB does not think that the presence of the Safe Haven will correlate with increased criminal activity, in response to the neighbors’ concerns, we have consulted with the Alexandria Police who have agreed to pay increased attention to the site and the surrounding neighborhood, once the program is operational. Our own Department’s Emergency Services will also be available to monitor the area and contact the police if suspicious activity is observed.

Neighbors have inquired as to the rationale for selecting the Patrick Street site for the Safe Haven. The CSB did explore alternative locations, however 115 N. Patrick St was chosen for many reasons. As you have heard today and read in the staff report, the selection of the site is congruent with the Board’s housing plan and siting process for dispersal of special needs housing through the city. The location provides easy access to public transportation for the residents and is convenient to recreation and employment opportunities as well as other services the residents will use. The building

lent itself to adaptive reuse to serve 12 residents in an apartment configuration. Finally, fiscal analysis determined that the site was the most viable choice.

The facts are:

- The Safe Haven will serve one fifth the number of people that the Clubhouse did, and will have a correspondingly lower impact on the neighborhood.
- An independent real estate analysis found that the Safe Haven will not negatively affect housing values.
- Programs like this help, they do not harm, downtown business and tourism.
- The proposed site meets the needs of the residents and is congruent with siting policy.
- Safe Havens are established, effective programs that get homeless people with disabilities off the streets and into treatment.
- Many prospective Safe Haven residents now live in or pass through the neighborhood every day.

The CSB's record of operating residential programs demonstrates that we are attentive to safety, we are good neighbors, and we do what we say we'll do. We will live up to this record with the Safe Haven.

I thank you for your attention and I am happy to answer any questions.

1124 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 548-1461


A R T W E A R

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3-17-07

March 17, 2007

Mayor William D. Euille and Members of the Alexandria City Council:

Ref: City Council Meeting, March 17, 2007, Docket Item #10

I have owned a business, called Imagine Artwear, on King Street since 1992. Six of those years I operated at 823 King Street, then nine years at 1124 King Street. Both of these locations were within two blocks of the former "Clubhouse" and Second Genesis.

Over the years, I met several of the residents and staff of both places. Never in 15 years have any of these persons caused me concern or harm. The value of supervised programs for people who need help and are willing to participate in those programs cannot be disputed.

There is no place for discrimination and bias at Safe Haven. Mental illness can strike anyone of us at anytime regardless of status, income or personal circumstances. No one of good conscience could oppose this program. I cannot condone denying assistance to my fellow citizens on the basis of the unfounded fears of a few.

Please support Safe Haven.

Thank You,



Carol Supplee

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3-17-07

Mr. Mayor & City Council Members:

Good Morning and thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Craig Miller and I live at 915 Cameron Street. I have been on record as supporting the Safe Haven concept, however, I oppose this Safe Haven as it is proposed and also its location. There are too many unanswered questions at this stage. An SUP deals with the health, safety, and welfare of the neighborhood and surrounding community – this includes those consumers we are trying to help.

I want to address the following specific points related to this SUP:

1. **Zoning Issue** – the Staff report for the Planning Commission did not discuss the roof deck with respect to the “open space.” Comments by Mary Riley at a previous BAR Hearing related to “locking the door” to the roof deck are incompatible with current zoning code. Denying access to the residents’ open space doesn’t seem like a reasonable residential scenario for anyone and pushes forward the notion that the CSB

is trying to “shoehorn” this use for the building. The use does not conform to the King Street Retail Strategy and is contra to the zoning guidelines set for this area.

2. **The plans are not completed yet.** They have been with the architect for over a year – we don’t know what the facility will look like and how it will function.

Functionality of the facility is extremely important and will have a direct impact on what may cause irritation and therefore trigger a violent response.

3. **Staffing** – What are the specific requirements for the overnight staff? Are the requirements different than the day staff? The Club House had 60 members but was a drop-in day center with 30 staff. That is a 2-1 consumer/staff ratio. The Safe Haven at night will be 6-1 consumer/staff ratio. It is important to know what level of expertise will be on-site especially with no medical doctor at the premises.

4. **Environmental impact** – A great deal of talk has been focused on the location and the fact that many other Safe Haven’s are in mixed use areas. How many of them are located on a major highway similar to Route 1? The medical experts agree this site is “too stimulating” and can result in increased stimulation and can lead to dangerous behavior. This is a CRITICAL issue that MUST be addressed by the CSB.

5. **Substance abuse and its direct correlation to crime.** The Alexandria Police at a CSB Community Meeting admitted there is a direct correlation with drug & alcohol abuse and an increase in crime. The White House drug policy website has statistics to show substance abusers are 10 times more likely to commit theft & larceny, 10 times more likely to commit aggravated assault, and 12 times more likely to commit burglary. The CSB has not been able to give me a range of the amount of substance abusers that will be in the Safe Haven. They have mentioned more than 50% will have a co-occurring substance abuse problem but will not give me a range. Does that mean 50-60%, 70%, 80% are likely to be substance abusers? The Staff Report for the Planning Commission assumed 50% or 6 people BUT after e-mails with Carol Layer – that number is disputable and our neighborhood has a right to know EXACTLY how many substance abusers we can expect.

6. **Fire.** US Dept of Health and Human Services has noted that this clientele has a higher incidence for fire. “No smoking rules” in the building are good but may not be very effective with the severely mentally-ill population. This is a low demand facility for a reason – these consumers have a hard time following the rules. What makes you

think they won't smoke in their rooms? A reasonable expectation is they will not follow the rules and smoke anyway. How do we greater protect neighborhood against this heightened danger?

What is the alternative to this location? Why not sell the building, give the money to the CSB to be used for a new safe haven attached to the new police station on Wheeler Ave? We could build a Safe Haven to hold 25 people which is the maximum number allowed by the Gov't – that is over double the amount of people we are helping now. Congressman Moran could help secure new HUD funding for this worthy program.

Proximity to the police station, like the Safe Haven in Chicago, serves two purposes: most importantly –it protects the Safe Haven clientele from people who typically “prey” on them. Secondly, it enables the police to respond almost instantly to any violent behavior. 115 Patrick could then be put back on the “tax rolls” as an income producing property and perhaps some of that income could be used for the operational costs of the new safe haven.

I am asking the Council to please defer your decision for 60 days until the above mentioned items can be properly addressed by the CSB. If the Council should decide to rule today then I offer the following items to be included in the SUP:

- NO consumers who have a history of serious drug or alcohol abuse. The CSB has used Max's place Safe Haven as a model for us to compare and yet that program does not take serious alcohol or drug abusers.
- No consumers with any FELONY records or misdemeanors involving violence.
- If a resident of Safe Haven commits an offense such as trespassing, property crime, or assault, they be expelled from the program.
- Strict curfew be enforced between the hours of 11pm and 7am. If this is to be a "Safe Haven" and its goal is to bring people off the streets, it doesn't make sense that it can be a place where problem behavior can be launched. Why can't we use all reasonable efforts to keep people from exiting the building between the hours of 11pm & 7am and this would go a long way in allaying the neighborhood fears.

It only takes one incident to shatter a life and then people are looking back
regretting their decisions.

Thank you

Craig S. Miller, Jr.

Corpus Christi School

Elementary/Junior High
3301 Glen Carlyn Road
Falls Church, VA 22041
(703) 820-7450 x10



Early Childhood Center
7506 St. Philip's Court
Falls Church, VA 22042
(703) 573-4570

Dear Mr. Delaplane,

Enclosed please find a packet of information re: The Safe Haven/Moo's Place program that began across the street from the school in 1998.

I use this packet when I'm a guest speaker at Marymount University's Graduate School.

I think you'll find the information, especially the questionnaire helpful.

Sincerely,
Tina Christod

QUESTIONS FROM CONCERNED PARENTS TO NEW HOPE HOUSING, INC.

STANDARDS FOR ENTRY

How is "persistent mental illness" defined?

What is the precise nature of the mental illnesses affecting the residents that will be housed there?
Will there be individuals suffering from manic depression? Schizophrenia? Paranoid schizophrenia?
What else?

Will it be open to both men and women, or will it be a single gender home?

Will New Hope conduct its own outreach (e.g., word on the street, visit parks, abandoned buildings,
under bridges, etc.), or will prospective residents be referred to New Hope? Who will make any
referrals (e.g., homeless shelters, soup kitchens, hospitals, police, local government)?

What screening process will be used to determine whether a homeless individual should become a
resident?

How will the location across the street from an elementary campus affect the admission criteria?

Will there be criminal background checks? Will past or current substance abuse be taken into
account? Will problems and incidents from previous shelter stays, whether violent or not, be taken
into account?

Will past felonies or prior sexual offenses bar an individual from admission to the program? Will
current substance abuse or alcohol abuse bar admission?

Will residents be dual diagnosis individuals possibly suffering from other physical, mental and/or
emotional ailments (e.g., physical handicaps, AIDS, tuberculosis, mental retardation, childhood
histories of abuse or neglect, substance abuse, alcoholism)? If so, what additional facilities and
services will be provided to accommodate additional needs?

Who will evaluate and diagnose potential residents to determine whether they should be admitted into the program? What training/experience, do these individuals have in such evaluations and diagnoses?

Will there be ongoing periodic evaluations to ensure that an individual should remain at the home? What form will periodic evaluations take? What means will be available to remove problem residents?

ONGOING OPERATIONS

What will be the training and experience of the on-site personnel? Will all on-site personnel be required to possess a minimum level of training and experience, even those on duty at night? What is that minimum level?

What will be the staff to resident ratio?

Will there be a live-in attendant, or will the facility be staffed through shift workers only?

What experience does New Hope have in operating facilities of this type? Has New Hope consulted with operators of similar facilities? What other facilities or groups have provided advice and guidance? What was that advice and guidance?

Did New Hope investigate the experiences of other groups that provide similar program? What problems have been faced in those programs? Has there been an increase in crime in the area surrounding any such program?

Is New Hope aware of any similar program located across the street from an elementary school? Did New Hope investigate to determine whether there is any similar program located across the street from an elementary school? If so, what is the similar program and what problems have arisen?

How will New Hope attempt to integrate new residents? Will an outreach worker familiar with the resident remain involved for a period of time? Will there be a "buddy system" which pairs new residents with experienced residents until the new resident is acclimated?

What will be the policy, on possession of weapons? How will compliance with that policy, be monitored? What happens when that policy is violated?

What will be the policy on possession or use of controlled substances and alcohol? How will compliance with that policy be monitored? What happens when that policy is violated?

What will be the visitation policy? Will there be a limit on the times at which visitors may be at the facility? Will there be a limit on the number of visitors at a particular time? Will visitors be allowed to stay overnight? Will visitors be monitored to ensure they comply with the rules and safeguards established by New Hope for the group home? How will visitors be monitored?

Will residents be required to take prescribed medications? What will happen if resident refuses to take medication intended to regulate mental illness (such as paranoid Schizophrenia)?

Will there be regular medical care? How will that be provided?

Will there be regular psychiatric care and evaluation? How will that be provided? Will a change of condition (for better or for worse) cause a resident to lose eligibility for residence?

What safeguards will be taken to ensure the safety of the children at Corpus Christi? Who will pay for safeguards taken by Corpus Christi to ensure the safety of the children? How will the safeguards be policed? Will New Hope agree to written, legally binding assurances with regard to the safeguards?

Will there be a requirement that residents be employed or actively seeking employment?

Will residents be required to pay rent or to assist in the operation and maintenance of the facility (e.g., household chores, etc.) to earn their keep? Will residents that are able to contribute to household costs such as food be required to make such contributions?

The "Safe Haven Fact Sheet" contrasted this program with New Hope's "highly structured shelters". What, if any, structure will this program have?

Will there be limitations on the comings and goings of the residents (e.g., will there be a curfew, etc.)?

What is the expected average length of stay for residents? How will New Hope determine when it is time for a resident to move on? Will New Hope ensure that a resident has a place to go before they are released from the program? Can a resident simply withdraw from the program?

What liability insurance will New Hope carry? Has it been obtained? What does it cover?

What mechanism will be available for the airing of complaints concerning residents? Who will be the contact point at New Hope for neighbors having problems and concerns? Will that contact be available 24 hours a day?

APPLICATION PROCESS

When was 3302 Glen Carlyn first identified by New Hope as a possible site for the proposed group home?

What evaluations, studies or analyses were made with regard to the suitability or unsuitability of this location for the proposed purpose? Are any in written form? What factors were considered?

Was there an analysis on the impact on the local community? Was there an analysis of the impact on the residents of being placed in a potentially hostile environment due to the proximity to an elementary school?

What other locations were considered as possible sites for this group home and why were they rejected?

What, if any, steps were taken to obtain community input from the school and nearby communities? When were those steps taken?

What are the steps required by HUD to obtain approval for a project like this, and were those required steps satisfied? How were they satisfied? Where can we find a copy of the "HUD requirements" noted in the New Hope Safe Haven Fact Sheet?

Was there a requirement for a public hearing? Did it take place? When? How was the public informed of the hearing? Who was invited/present?

When was the HUD application submitted? Is the grant site specific?

We understand that group homes of this type normally should be located away from busy highways. Was that considered in the decision to select this site, two doors from one of the busiest roads in Fairfax County?

What is the basis of the \$828,945 grant amount? Has a budget been prepared?

Can we have copies of the HUD application and grant? Will you make it necessary to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act?

What, if anything, was the involvement of Fairfax County in any approval or review process?

What support has been committed from the Community Services Board and the Health Department? What other community-based organizations have committed support? How did New Hope obtain these commitments of support?

Have there been any studies or analyses of the needs of this target group and the existing local facilities and services available to them? Can we have copies?

3/14/2007

Mayor William D. Euille
City of Alexandria
301 King St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: The *Safe Haven* Project

Your Honor:

I am writing on behalf of Mr. Craig Miller who has described the *Safe Haven* project to me, asking for my clinical opinion regarding the project's psychological benefit to its residents, as well as its potential impact on the neighborhood.

No one can deny the value of any substantial help to the needy and vulnerable, but to put it on record, my clinical opinion is that the *Safe Haven* project in its intended location will harm its residents. I have no doubt that in spite of the good intention of its planners, the neighborhood surrounding the project will generate the opposite of the intended results.

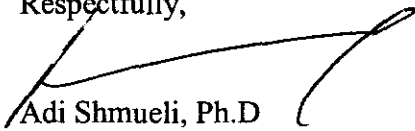
Reportedly, the residents of *Safe Haven* have serious psychiatric illnesses, sometimes accompanied by substance abuse of different kinds. If this is the case, then the residents will all demonstrate emotional fragility in the sense that they have extreme difficulties containing their anger, their fears, their elation and/or their aggressive feelings in any situation. You would think that to help such a population, one would need a relatively calm and **predictable** environment. But where is this project meant to be? In a highly touristic, commercial neighborhood with heavy traffic.

What could be the potential impact of such a stimulating environment on *Safe Haven's* residents? I can see the residents immediately resorting to begging from tourists, then their using the power of money to buy alcohol and drugs. Alcohol is the first choice for people with emotional fragility because it tends to allay anxiety. However, alcohol also lowers sexual inhibition, diminishes judgment and may enhance paranoia. It's important to emphasize that the residents of *Safe Haven* will have little supervision. Therefore the likelihood is very high that they may not take their daily medications and, instead, medicate themselves with alcohol and illegal substances. Can you imagine the behavior of a paranoid, hallucinating person high on alcohol?

ADI SHMUELI Ph.D.

My point is that in a stable neighborhood, which is only residential, this kind of fragile individual would have a better chance of establishing supportive ties with other residents and neighbors. But in a touristic place, where human contacts are transient, the lack of stable ties and the ease of getting money will further shake, if not split, the self of a person who has a vulnerable self to begin with. I am concerned that this project, due to its location, will harm the very people it is supposed to help.

Respectfully,



Adi Shmueli, Ph.D
Clinical Psychologist

**1612 K Street N.W. Suite 1202
Washington, DC 20006
Tel (202) 463-8828**

10

3-17-07



Terence Everitt
<tjeveritt@yahoo.com>
03/16/2007 09:16 AM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
cc
bcc
Subject Safe Haven

Dear Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Council Members,

As a CSB member, as well as a resident of the Old & Historic District, I have been following the course of this project over these many months and it has become increasingly clear that the opponents of Safe Haven are not particularly concerned with the truth or facts regarding the program. They are simply afraid of the unfamiliar. Their sole concern lies with keeping "these people" away from their homes. I share neither their fear nor their objective.

My wife, Jennifer, and I see things quite differently. These people are our fellow citizens; they are in need of our support and deserving of our respect. We sincerely hope and trust that they receive both from each of you. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Terence J. Everitt, Esq.

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Jean Niebauer/Alex
03/14/2007 05:49 PM

To alexvamayor@aol.com, macdonaldcouncil@msn.com,
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
timothylovain@aol.com, delpepper@aol.com,
cc jim.hartmann@alexandriava.gov,
Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov, Michele Evans/Alex@Alex
bcc

Subject Safe Haven

10

3-17-07

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of City Council: I am forwarding to you a letter from the Chair of the Human Rights Commission, Matt Harris, speaking for the Commission, in support of Safe Haven. Thank you for your consideration. Jean



HRC Safe Haven Ltr to CC.doc

Jean Kelleher Niebauer
Director, Office of Human Rights
City of Alexandria, Virginia
703.838.6390



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

421 KING STREET, SUITE 400
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

alexandriava.gov

703.838.6390

March 14, 2007

Mayor William D. Euille and
Members of City Council
City Hall
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Re: SUP #2007-0002

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of Council:

On behalf of the Human Rights Commission, I want to voice support for the Safe Haven Program proposed by the Community Services Board ("CSB") for 115 North Patrick Street. The Commission is concerned that opposition to this residential program, intended to provide supported, supervised housing for homeless persons with disabling conditions in Alexandria, is based on misunderstanding and fear, which can lead to discrimination.

Federal and Virginia Fair Housing Laws and the Alexandria Human Rights Code provide protection against unlawful housing practices. The Commission believes that opponents' public policy arguments against the Safe Haven Program are a pretext for discrimination. The CSB operates many residential programs in the City successfully, as measured by both the lack of community incidents and positive outcomes for consumers. The Safe Haven Program is a "best practices" model for providing housing and services to the chronic street homeless population, and offers the same potential for success here.

The Human Rights Commission, in its role as an advisory body to the City Council and in accordance with its mandate to administer the provisions of the Human Rights Code, respectfully requests that you grant the Special Use Permit on March 17, 2007, and permit the CSB to move forward with the Safe Haven Program.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Matt Harris, Chair

cc: James K. Hartmann, City Manager
Jackie Henderson, City Clerk
Jean Kelleher Niebauer, Director, Office of Human Rights

10

3-17-07



David Fromm or Amy Slack
<alsdmf@earthlink.net>
03/15/2007 01:34 PM

To Jackie Henderson <jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov>
cc
bcc

Subject letter_di 10; mtg 031707

History: This message has been replied to and forwarded.

Jackie,
Would you please see that Mayor Euille and members of City Council receive copies of this letter in support of Safe Haven?



letter_CC_115N_Patrick.doc

Thanks,
Amy

Amy Slack, Land Use committee Co-chair
Del Ray Citizens Association
703.549.3412
alsdmf@earthlink.net

"We live within a heritage beyond our computation.
Will we tilt the cup until it runs dry or build for a day beyond our day?"

Del Ray Citizens Association

Established 1954
delraycitizens@yahoo.com

P.O. Box 2233, Alexandria, VA 22301
<http://www.delraycitizen.org>

March 15, 2007

Mayor William Eulle
City Hall, Room 2300
Alexandria, VA 22314

Subject: SUP# 2007-0002; Safe Haven at 115 North Patrick Street.

Dear Mayor Eulle,

At the business portion of the Del Ray Citizens Association Annual Meet-and-Greet meeting, the membership discussed a recommendation in support of the subject SUP request. Members were informed of the recommendation in advance by means of publication in 'The Citizen' and in the meeting agenda handout. After a brief discussion we voted unanimous in favor of the recommendation.

I have enclosed a copy of the letter sent to Acting Director of Planning and Zoning Rich Josephson which outlines our reasoning in support the Safe Haven program and congregate housing for 12 clients. Anecdotal, last week I spoke with a wonderful young man who very recently purchased a home near the Windsor Avenue Substance Abuse Group Home. And although he is a long-term resident of Del Ray he was unaware of the group home being just a few doors down. I can think of no better way to exemplify how well the Community Services Board provides and administers programs without harm to a neighborhood.

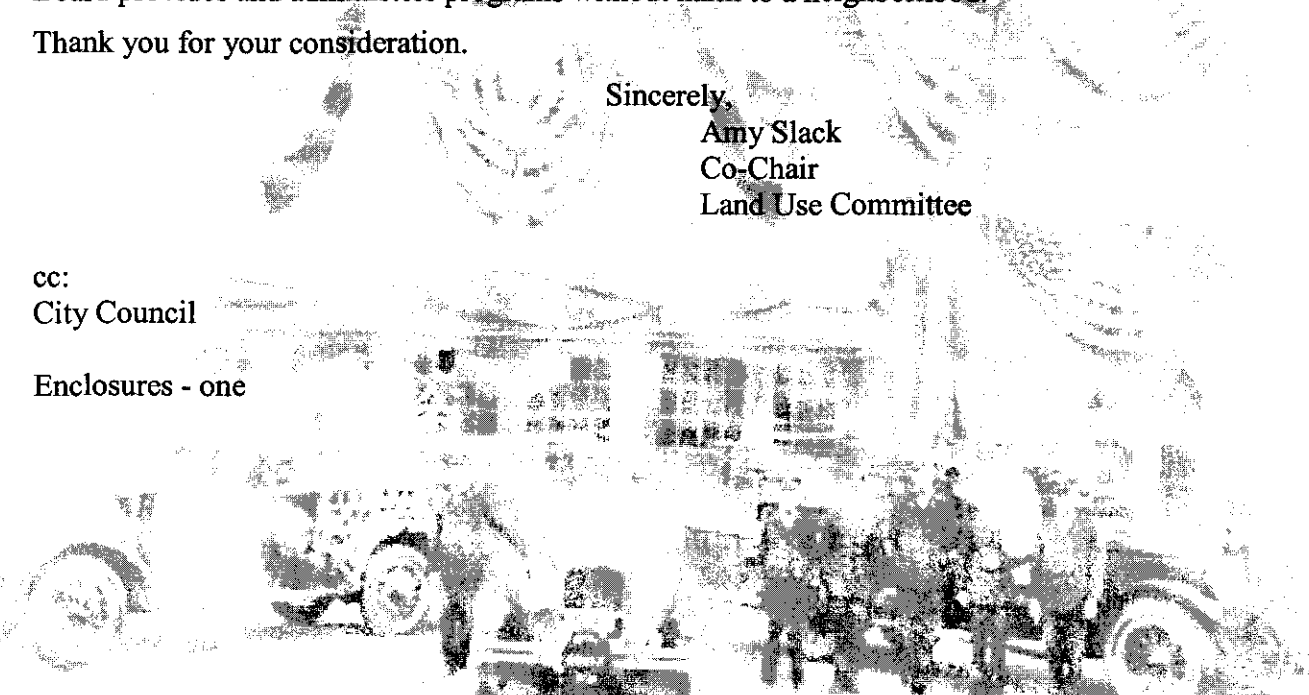
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Slack
Co-Chair
Land Use Committee

cc:
City Council

Enclosures - one



*Celebrating 100 years of the Town of Potomac
1908 - 2008*

Del Ray Citizens Association

March 16, 2007

Page 2 of 4

Subject: SUP# 2007-0002; Safe Haven at 115 North Patrick Street.

March 2, 2007

Acting Director Rich Josephson
Department of Planning and Zoning
301 King Street, Room 2100
Alexandria, VA 22314

Subject: SUP #2007-0002; Safe Haven at 115 North Patrick Street.

Dear Mr. Josephson,

At their meeting of February 19, 2007 the Executive Board concurred with the analysis and recommendation made by the Land Use Committee to support the Community Services Board SUP request for a congregate housing facility at 115 North Patrick Street. It is atypical for us to comment on a request that falls outside of our constitutional boundaries. But it is important that Del Ray remain on record in support of equitable distribution of mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse facilities throughout Alexandria (Fair Share Agreement - CSB Policy 13).

On March 12, 2007 the general membership will be asked to discuss this recommendation at their regularly scheduled business meeting.

At the request of DRCA members, the Land Use Committee examined the Safe Haven request for similarities with the Windsor Avenue substance abuse recovery Group Home and its impact on the surrounding Del Ray residential neighborhood. We found:

- The Alexandria Community Services Board (CSB) proposes to spend \$800K to renovate a City owned building into apartment housing to serve 12 homeless clients with mental illness and/or substance abuse disabilities.

- The site was used as 'The Clubhouse', a daytime service offered by CSB to the same client pool for more than 20 years. In anticipation of The Clubhouse relocating to a larger facility, repairs to the building were postponed. Despite the type of use and declining building condition there is no documented adverse impact on the adjacent residential or business uses.

Subject: SUP# 2007-0002; Safe Haven at 115 North Patrick Street.

- The site is located in a historic district under jurisdiction of the Board of Architectural Review (BAR). The CSB has BAR approval for modifications to the structure in order to meet the occupancy needs and open space requirement. The zoning, Commercial Downtown, allows congregate housing with a SUP.

- The CSB Siting Policy "includes two aspects of the siting process: (1) financial and physical criteria that must be met, and (2) the basis for location of the housing within the City." The building with approved modification meets the physical criteria. The site meets the financial criteria; as an adaptive reuse of City owned property there is no acquisition cost. And the site meets the basis for location criteria that requires "every attempt is made to place new Board owned and operated housing in the Area with the lowest proportion of existing special needs housing." The site is located in Area V/ Braddock Road/Old Town North/Potomac Yard, which is the second lowest area in concentration of mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse facilities in the City. It is one block from the first lowest area boundary line, Area IV/Old Town.

- CSB seeks to operate a Safe Haven program engaging the occupants of the apartments. The program differs from other CSB and shelter programs by not requiring clients to comply with a set of rules prior to receiving shelter. This 'low demand' philosophy reaches out to individuals in ways they willing accept additional help in changing their lives for the better.

- The facility is open 24 hours/day. Trained staff, no fewer than two persons, is always present to provide training, counseling, and support. All potential parking needs are met within 300 feet of the facility.

- Candidates are screened by health professionals; those with unmanageable risk to themselves or others, do not agree to health & safety rules, or are not compatible with other residents will not be admitted into the program.

- Residents are not required to leave the facility to attend training classes, therapy sessions or work at a job.

Once construction is complete, the Safe Haven proposal is similar to the Windsor Avenue Group Home in that it is essentially a new building situated conveniently near public transportation that provides a relatively safe environment in which clients live. In most every other respect it differs.

- Located in the Historic Town of Potomac district yet outside of BAR protection, a single-family home that occupied the Windsor Avenue Group Home site was demolished. It was replaced with new building designed to house 8 clients. The site is zoned R-2-5/Single and Two Family - group or congregate homes not allowed as by-right uses or with a SUP. Even so, Federal Fair Housing law allow for the multiple CSB facilities within a few blocks. Several

Del Ray Citizens Association

March 16, 2007

Page 4 of 4

Subject: SUP# 2007-0002; Safe Haven at 115 North Patrick Street.

Special Needs Housing units for adults with mental retardation quietly occupy single-family homes and apartments nearby.

- The Windsor Avenue Group Home program provides transitional housing for adult men with substance abuse disabilities and/or serious mental illness. Clients are referred by health professionals and/or by a Court order, and are screened by health professionals before being admitted. The program requires clients to abide by rules or they will be expelled. It requires clients to leave the house weekdays each morning until 5:00 pm, usually to attend work, training, or AA/NA meetings. Every 18 months or less the program introduces up to 8 new people with substance abuse and/or serious mental illness into a stable, family-centric area. Each day when CSB Staff leaves during daytime hours, the house is unattended.

- The most affected residents of Windsor Avenue do not fear for their safety. Their houses have not decreased in value. Many residents aren't even aware the existence the special needs houses in our midst.

It is now a decade after the Windsor Avenue Group Home was built and Area VI/Potomac West remains the highest concentration area in Alexandria of group homes and apartments owned by CSB or private companies. We have seen unprecedented increases in our property values. We embrace our neighborhood diversity. We have integrated the many individuals living in long term and transitional housing into the fabric of our lives, given them a sense of belonging in the neighborhood and help make them whole.

We believe the renovation of 115 North Patrick Street is economical. The site complies with Policy 13 criteria for placement of new facilities. It is a relatively safe neighborhood and transit friendly. We believe the Safe Haven program will not pose an adverse impact on tourists or its residential and business neighbors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Slack
Co-Chair
Land Use Committee

cc:

Judy Carter, LCSW, City of Alexandria
Mary Riley, Chair, Community Services Board
M. Catherine Gibbs, representing attorney

10
3-17-07



"katrina kernodle"
<katrinacfhm@hotmail.com>

03/15/2007 03:09 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, cc <erwagner@comcast.net>, <hsdunn@ipbtax.com>, <jssjennings@aol.com>, <jlr@cpma.com>, <komorosj@nasd.com>, <fossum@rand.org>, bcc

Subject Support for Safe Haven

Dear Mayor Euille, City Council members and Planning Commission members:

I am writing in regard to the controversy that has surrounded the Safe Haven facility.

Safe Haven can be viewed as a bright spot, a place of great compassion for this community or it can be viewed with fear. It is only my surmise; however, it would seem that those who have opted for the latter vision either have little experience in working with the homeless, individuals with addictions and/or people diagnosed with mental illness or that they have had some brush within their homes or families with the aforementioned challenges that caused great worry.

For ten years, I have worked around the corner from the proposed facility at 113 N Alfred Street. My mother is the company president and I am the director of project management. We have clients come to our offices from all over the country as well as from international locations and, of course, the Old Town location and ambiance was, and is, an important business consideration in purchasing this building more than ten years ago. Businesses arguably have as much (or more) of an investment in Old Town as local homeowners. Furthermore, my parents' home is only about eight blocks away.

That being said, the Safe Haven facility conflict (which has landed on your desk) has cost the time, energy and resources of many. On the one hand, it is quite stunning that a place that will benefit a handful of people immensely has caused such an outcry. On the other hand, it is not stunning at all and is a testament to the motivation and power that is born from fear.

Safe Haven opponents' fears have been expressed in a variety of ways from the attempted compassionate, "we don't feel that this is the best place to help these people;" to that of an activist, "this process is based on improper local government zoning;" to obvious fear-based/fear-mongering statements warning that "our safety and security are at risk."

All this fear calls to mind the cliché, what you don't know can't hurt you. People are afraid of a facility near them that will house people with known problems. Safe Haven is something "known" amidst so many unknowns in life. It is almost certain that within any given five block radius in this town, or any other, that among the friends and neighbors, shop owners and staff, tourists and travelers that pass us everyday there lies depression, drug addiction, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and any other number of diagnoses that do not arouse concern because these people we pass

do not live in a special house, they do not appear unwell, they drive a nice car, or have a degree and a nice house. Being homeless erases these facades and stacks an additional burden on top of the incredible challenge of addiction or mental illness.

Almost eleven years ago, I walked the streets of Old Town full of terror and delusions for days followed by weeks of suicidal thoughts. I was twenty-three with a UVA degree and long blond hair and had just returned from a great job in Tokyo. I was also terribly unwell, hospitalized for several weeks and lived at my parents' home for almost a year while trying to get back on my feet. Did any of my parents' neighbors on Cameron Street fear me or protest my presence or post signs around the block stating that their safety and security were at risk? Of course not. I had the means to obtain the medical treatment I needed and friends and family to be with me on my long promenade back to being well. However, had I been homeless it is challenging to imagine that I would be writing this letter today.

Is the work ahead at Safe Haven challenging? Certainly. Will the individuals living in Safe Haven be "cured" immediately? There is no magic wand cure for anyone; it takes hard work and support--both of which Safe Haven facilitates. Is Safe Haven better than the status quo in Old Town? Absolutely. Will Safe Haven make a difference for the better in Old Town? It already has (I imagine that difference is clear to you as you add this to a pile of similar letters).

Thank you for taking your time to read this letter in support of the Safe Haven.

Sincerely, Katrina Kernodle-Walsh

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safe haven 3-15.doc



"Ann E Herlin"
<ann@opmh.org>
03/15/2007 03:59 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
cc "Mary Riley" <maryriley@comcast.net>

bcc

Subject Support for Safe Haven

10

3-17-07

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of the City Council,

I am writing to once again state my strong support for the proposed Safe Haven facility at 115 N. Patrick St. Each winter, as I shiver in the short dash from my heated car to my heated apartment or office, I am saddened to think of those who do not have a place to live. Each time I meet someone in our city who is chronically homeless, I am convicted by the comfort I have in the light of the struggles he or she faces. It is very important to me as a citizen of this city that we be a true community -- a city that lives out the values of compassion, diversity, inclusiveness, justice, and welcome.

Some of the individuals protesting the Safe Haven facility argue that they are not opposed to such a facility in concept; they are simply opposed to its particular location. I read a comment from one opponent of a Safe Haven facility saying that "It only has to misfire once to affect the entire tourism and retail business from Old Town." First, I would argue that the vibrancy and strength of the Old Town community is far stronger than that comment suggests. Second, the Safe Haven concept has a strong record of safety. Third, unless we plan to remove ALL people from the King Street corridor, we will never be 100 % safe from the possibility of an "incident." No class or kind of people (if I dare to use those terms) are unequivocally "safe." Fourth, the people served by a Safe Haven facility are already our neighbors, already walking our streets, already co-existing with us in this community called Old Town.

Let us begin to move forward with the creation of a Safe Haven as quickly as possible. Each day we delay is another day that one of my neighbors will live life on the street. How incredibly sad it was to learn that one of the homeless men who testified before the planning commission returned to find that his belongings had been stolen. This day-to-day existence with no support, no security, and no safe haven is a daily crisis for dozens of Alexandria residents in our midst. As an Alexandria citizen, this is the security and value issue that weighs most heavily on my mind when considering the creation of a Safe Haven. Please, let us move forward now.

Life is not risk free. I live in a condominium unit, and there is no guarantee that none of my neighbors will ever be violent toward me. Yet the Community Service Board is working hard to manage the risks that exist, and to transform Alexandria into a haven that is safe for all people, not just "me."

Sincerely,

The Rev. Ann Herlin
Associate Pastor: Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S. Fairfax St.,
Alexandria, VA 22314
Alexandria Resident: 53 Skyhill Rd., #301, 22314

10

3-17-07



"Carol Freeman"
<carolfreeman@comcast.net>
03/15/2007 09:36 PM

To <paulcsmedberg@aol.com>
cc <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>
bcc
Subject Safe Haven

Dear Paul,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Safe Haven at 115 N. Patrick Street and to ask you to support this important initiative, which will provide permanent housing to as many as 12 homeless Alexandria residents. This is a proven model that not only provides housing to the chronically homeless, but also provides them with opportunities to receive treatment and other services. The CSB has extensive experience operating shelters in the city, and has gone above and beyond in planning for the Safe Haven and getting citizen input into this project.

I have lived in the City of Alexandria for 28 years and one of our biggest assets is that we are a caring community. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that every resident of the city, including those who suffer from mental illness or are struggling with substance abuse, have a safe place to live.

Sincerely,
Carol Freeman
619 Upland Place
Alexandria, VA 22301



"Carol Freeman"
<carolfreeman@comcast.net>
03/15/2007 09:36 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Safe Haven

10

3-17-07

----- Original Message -----

From: Carol Freeman
To: dellepper@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2007 9:34 PM
Subject: Safe Haven

Dear Del,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Safe Haven at 115 N. Patrick Street and to ask you to support this important initiative, which will provide permanent housing to as many as 12 homeless Alexandria residents. This is a proven model that not only provides housing to the chronically homeless, but also provides them with opportunities to receive treatment and other services. The CSB has extensive experience operating shelters in the city, and has gone above and beyond in planning for the Safe Haven and getting citizen input into this project.

I have lived in the City of Alexandria for 28 years and one of our biggest assets is that we are a caring community. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that every resident of the city, including those who suffer from mental illness or are struggling with substance abuse, have a safe place to live.

Sincerely,
Carol Freeman
619 Upland Place
Alexandria, VA 22301

10
3-17-07



<AHMcMurray@aol.com>
03/13/2007 08:51 AM

To <Alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <Councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <Timothylovain@aol.com>, <DELPepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject Christ Church Outreach Committee support for Safe Haven

Dear Members, Alexandria City Council:

We write as members of the Outreach Committee of Christ Episcopal Church, to request your support for the Safe Haven facility to be located at 115 North Patrick Street (SUP #2007-0002).

As a downtown church, we seek to minister to anyone who needs assistance, and many of the people who might find shelter in the Safe Haven are known to us. Through our Lazarus ministry, which provides comfort and some small assistance to people who are living in very difficult and often dangerous circumstances, we understand what the Safe Haven might mean to our brothers and sisters. As a parish that is located just a few short blocks from North Patrick Street, we know the needs of our neighbors.

We welcome this facility and feel assured that the City commitment will mean improved safety and health for the individuals who will live at Safe Haven, and will improve conditions in the neighborhood as well. People living without shelter and without guidance is the alternative, and that would not be a good decision.

We appreciate your commitment to ending homelessness and caring for those least able to help themselves.

Sincerely,

Nancy Carson
Crystal Collier
Ted Ellett
Dorothy Friedlander
Rev. Shirley Smith Graham
Mary Dixon Hutcheson
Craig Keith
Tara Knox
Helen Lewis
Ann McMurray
Andrea McNicholas
Kim Newman
Chris Newton
Gary Norek
Steve Ridenhour
Nancy Runton
Anne Shackleton
Michele Smith

10
3-17-07



Pam Goodell
<goodellp@yahoo.com>

03/12/2007 05:33 PM

Please respond to
<goodellp@yahoo.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, cc bcc
Subject Safe Haven

Please see the attached letters in support of Safe Haven.

Thank you

Pam Goodell
220 Century Place, #3309
Alexandria, VA 22304

One's philosophy is not best expressed in words: It is expressed in the choices one makes...in the long run, we shape our lives and we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die. And the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility



- *Eleanor Roosevelt* Letter in Support of Safe Haven for City Council.doc



Letter in Support of Safe Haven for Planzing Commission.doc

March 12, 2007

Dear Members of the Alexandria City Council:

I am writing in support of Safe Haven at 115 North Patrick Street. I am attaching the letter I wrote to the Planning Commission regarding this issue as background. However, in this letter I would like to address some of the comments made by the opponents of placing Safe Haven in Old Town. My intention is not to demonize the opposition but to draw attention to some of their argument that appear, at least to me, illogical.

- Opponents argue that the existence of Safe Haven will hurt retail along King Street. I'm not entirely sure how the behavior of 12 individuals could have that impact. I think if the residents and businesses of Old Town are placing the success or failure of retail on King Street on the shoulders of 12 individuals, then these businesses are already in trouble.
- Opponents contend that Safe Haven residents will discourage tourism due to concerns for safety. Simply put, crime happens and it's not necessarily the crime itself that creates the issues but the response to the crime. The rash of metro bus accidents in Washington, DC has not stopped people from crossing the street or riding the bus. When Washington, DC was known as the "Murder Capital of the World" tourists still flocked to the city. Hysteria begets hysteria. Crime is serious but it needs to be dealt with rationally not with overwrought statements, dire predictions and stereotyping.

In addition, tourists really aren't naïve or stupid. They know that Alexandria is an urban area and that the safety they may enjoy back in their hometowns is not necessarily the safety they will enjoy in the City of Alexandria, VA. Certainly, the City of Alexandria is safer than ever, as demonstrated by the crime statistics presented at the March 1 Town Hall Meeting. However, it is not as safe nor will it ever be as safe as my hometown of Harvard, MA (population 2,500) where not only are houses and cars not always locked but several people in my neighborhood leave their keys in their cars when at home. Yet when shopping or on travel, personal safety precautions are different. Cars and doors are locked and personal safety is more guarded when walking on unfamiliar streets.

- Opponents make a case that Safe Haven isn't the most profitable venture for the City of Alexandria to place in Old Town. There are a lot of really great things about our capitalistic society. But my experience tells me with capitalism comes the risk of losing your soul.

I would ask that you consider Enron, WorldCom, and the other cases of corporate greed that have been splashed across newspapers. In the drive for profit, thousands of peoples' lives have been ruined and destroyed. Or, closer to home, look at what it took to get an agreement to have our own Washington Nationals on local TV. It's not like Comcast, the owners of the Nationals or the Orioles, or executives at Major League Baseball need the money derived from the deal. The desire to *want* needs to be overshadowed by what is *right* even if that means a few less dollars in one's pocket. Do we want to be a community that only thinks about profit or do we want to be a community that looks to drive economic prosperity by making decisions that not only increase the city's financial bottom line but our spiritual one as well?

- Opponents claim to have spoken with many experts that support their contention that Safe Haven is inappropriate for Old Town. None of the experts mentioned in the opponents' verbal claims were present at the Planning Commission meeting. I have no doubt that

opponents of Safe Haven have spoken to many people. However, when you devise the answers you want, it's very easy to ask the questions.

- Opponent lament that they are being portrayed as NIMBYists and unsupportive of the homeless. In fact, I would argue that it is the opponents not the Community Service Board (CSB) who have launched a publicity campaign that is not supported by facts and is based on unsubstantiated allegations and innuendos. For instance, opponents say that the CSB purposely did not notify neighbors. Minutes from the City Council meeting in June 2004 state clearly that the CSB did not have to notify residents but that the CSB stated that it intended to do so. In fact, there is a lengthy paper trail demonstrating that the CSB not only notified surrounding neighbors and civic associations, but held numerous meetings and had a large number of contacts with neighbors. In addition, at a community meeting, it was alleged that Mary Riley is not a resident of Alexandria. Then, at the Planning Commission, an opponent alleged that many businesses on King Street were against Safe Haven, but feared speaking out due to concerns of retaliation from the City.
- Lastly, opponents are now calling for independent studies into this issue. In my opinion, this is nothing more than another delay tactic. (Earlier, opponents successfully delayed the program by fighting for the CSB to go through a Special Use Permit process. This has now happened.) I have no doubt that were such studies to be done and should the findings of these studies support Safe Haven and the CSB, opponents would find a way to call into question those who conducted the studies or try to find some other means of discrediting the studies.

The facts on Safe Haven and the Community Services Board speak volumes. The letters of support speak even louder. I respectfully request your support for Safe Haven at 115 North Patrick Street.

Thank you,

Pam Goodell
220 Century Place, #3309
Alexandria, VA 22304

March 5, 2007

Re: SUP#2007-0002

Dear Members of the Planning Commission:

I am writing in support of Safe Haven at 115 N. Patrick Street. I have been a resident of the City of Alexandria for five years, living in the Landmark area. For the past two and a half years, I have worked in Old Town. I am also a member of the Board of Directors of Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically (ALIVE!), an organization of 41 congregations, which passed a resolution last year and again in February 2007 in support of Safe Haven.

I am an active volunteer with several service organizations in the City of Alexandria that bring me into direct contact with the population that would be served by Safe Haven. With ALIVE!, I am a regular volunteer at their Last Saturday Food Distribution program as well as a volunteer with the Furniture and Family Emergency Programs. My church (Fairlington United Methodist Church) is one of the overflow locations for the hypothermia program run by David's Place, a program for the chronic street homeless population. I have volunteered several evenings at this hypothermia program. I prepare and deliver food to Max's Place, a Safe Haven in Falls Church, VA. I regularly help serve dinner at the Carpenter's Shelter. Lastly, I am a volunteer at the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program's Hotline and Shelter. I can tell you with absolute certainty that if I believed that there were any safety-related issues I would not volunteer with any of these programs. My experiences have been positive and rewarding.

It's important that people move beyond outdated descriptions of substance abusers, the mentally ill, and the homeless. Just this past weekend, I met two successful entrepreneurs in Charlottesville, VA for whom a friend of mine helps with business development. In talking to these women, you would have never guessed that they were former substance abusers. Now they are business leaders in their community. People can change and make positive contributions. Safe Haven can help.

It's also important for all areas of the City of Alexandria to be part of the solution in helping substance abusers, the mentally ill, and the chronic homeless population. The West End, Del Ray, Brookville and many other sections have successfully hosted group homes, apartments and other facilities for this population. Just like Old Town, these are residential communities near schools and centers of retail. The Community Services Board and the Safe Haven program have an established and successful track record in helping people with substance abuse and mental health issues. The residents of Safe Haven will be residents of the City of Alexandria who have been pre-screened to eliminate potential problems. There will be trained staff present at Safe Haven to supervise residents.

Safe Haven is an incredible opportunity for the City of Alexandria to take another step to help city residents in need. While many other communities have cut funding for the poor and needy and are reducing services to other groups, the City of Alexandria has chosen to remain compassionate and has dedicated resources to help residents who need a helping hand. I would ask that you continue to show support for everyone in the community by approving this important program at 115 N. Patrick Street.

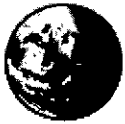
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pamela Goodell
220 Century Place, #3309
Alexandria, VA 22304

10

3-17-07



Tom and Susanne Arnold
<a.tsarnold@verizon.net>

03/12/2007 08:54 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Safe Haven

March 12, 2007

Dear City Clerk Henderson:

Only a few of us were present at the February meeting of the Upper King Street Neighborhood Civic Association. Without a quorum, we weren't able to vote in favor of or against the Safe Haven proposed for 115 North Patrick Street. However, we the undersigned members of that organization wish to record our individual support for this project.

Our hearts tell us that it is the right idea to provide housing for the most vulnerable of our citizens, those people afflicted by mental health disorders and substance abuse. We are encouraged by the record of Safe Havens in other areas of the country which have helped their residents to accept treatment, stay off the streets, and be good neighbors. We have listened to a presentation on the program and believe it will make our city stronger.

Our minds tell us that we must also be concerned for the safety and well-being of our neighborhood. Reassured by the outstanding record of the CSB residential programs throughout the City, we support the establishment of the Safe Haven here, but we do want to be kept informed of its operations - its success and failures. We will make a request to the Community Service Board that one of our members be on the Advisory Board and report back to our community.

Sincerely,

Sarah Allen Susanne Arnold Mary Longacre Bea Porter

Members of the Upper King Street Neighborhood Civic Association

10
3-17-07



<Merrittapprais@aol.com>
03/12/2007 07:41 PM

To <Alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<Councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>,
<Timothylovain@aol.com>, <DELPepper@aol.com>,

cc
bcc

Subject Safe Haven

March 12, 2007

Dear Mr. Mayor and Council Members:

I am a resident of the City of Alexandria (2729 Franklin Court) and I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the recent decision of the Planning Commission to approve the permit for the Safe Haven project. As you can tell by my address, I do not live in the vicinity of where Safe Haven is proposed to be; nevertheless, I believe this issue affects all citizens of Alexandria regardless of where they dwell. I have chosen to live and am proud to say that I live in Alexandria for many, many reasons. But the thing I am proudest of the most is the rich tradition and commitment of the City in trying to serve all its citizens, not just the economically privileged or influential. It has been said before but I think it bears repeating: a society or a community is ultimately judged not on the basis of its economic development or its support of education or its health care or transportation system, but rather on how it treats and cares for its most vulnerable populations. The establishment of Safe Haven would be one more splendid example, in a chain of splendid examples over the years, to the City's ongoing commitment to addressing the fundamental needs of some of our most desperate and dependent citizens.

I can also add, based on my many years of experience in the field of health policy research and my experience as a member of the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission, that safe and secure housing is among the most important components in an effective treatment regimen for individuals who are homeless and suffer from mental illness and perhaps co-occurring substance abuse disorders. The absence of secure housing raises the bar dramatically in terms of an individual's ability to receive medications and proper therapy and to ultimately regain a measure of independence, dignity and self-esteem.

I urge your endorsement of the Planning Commission's recommendation with respect to Safe Haven. Thank you for your consideration of my views on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Merritt
2729 Franklin Court
Alexandria, VA 22302

10

3-17-07



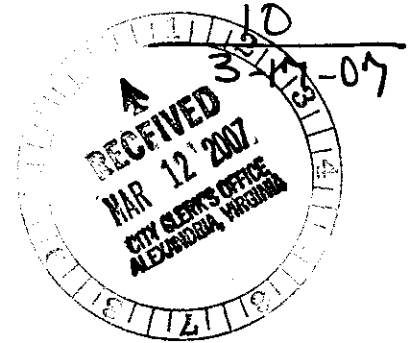
<Jeansidley@aol.com>
03/12/2007 01:45 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <Councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@Krupicka.com>, <Timothylovain@aol.com>, <DELPepper@aol.com>,
cc
bcc
Subject Safe Haven

I am writing again to express my support for the establishment of Safe Haven at 115 N. Patrick St. I have lived in Alexandria for 42 years and have thought of it as a city which is progressive and one that cares about the welfare of all its citizens. I have been a mental health counselor in private practice in Alexandria for 22 years and my current office which I own is at 805 Cameron Street, a block and a half from 115 N. Patrick Street. I believe a house such as Safe Haven is an important step in helping the homeless citizens in our community, and I would welcome it in my neighborhood. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. Jean Sidley, LPC, LMFT

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Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center
720 North Saint Asaph Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314



March 7, 2007

The Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
*Mayor William D. Euille, Vice Mayor Andrew H. Macdonald, Councilman Ludwig P. Gaines,
Councilman Rob Krupicka, Councilman Timothy B. Lovain, Councilwoman Del Pepper,
Councilman Paul C. Smedberg*
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: SUP #2007-0002

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of Council,

We are writing to you about Safe Haven on behalf of the Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center (AMHC). Our board members urge you to vote for the installation of Safe Haven at 115 N. Patrick Street after the upcoming public hearing in March.

At a public hearing a year ago we heard many of our fellow citizens speak about the plight of our City's chronically homeless individuals who have mental disabilities, and we were delighted when the council approved establishing a Safe Haven at 115 N. Patrick Street. In the hands of our Community Services Board (CSB) administrators and staff, we believe that Safe Haven will be an outstanding program. Staffed day and night by skilled mental health workers, the home will be a nurturing and stable environment. Its location on Patrick Street will offer its residents easy access to City resources and programs. Residents will have a real opportunity to accept treatment and improve their condition.

Now the issue of installing Safe Haven on Patrick Street has resurfaced because the building must be designated congregate housing. It seems to us that a new zoning designation should not change the council's decision to go forward with Safe Haven at this location.

In our view Safe Haven will be a home like the other homes on Patrick Street. The only difference will be that instead of housing a traditional family, it will be a home for people who are in need of specialized help. Several people have said they support the Safe Haven concept but feel that Patrick Street is the wrong site. A history of the project reveals that a number of locations were considered. During the search process the costs of renting or acquiring new property and making necessary renovations were evaluated. Planners also considered the concentration of social service sites in other parts of the city as well as the kind of setting recommended by the Safe Haven model. After weighing all these factors, 115 N. Patrick Street was chosen as the best location for the program.

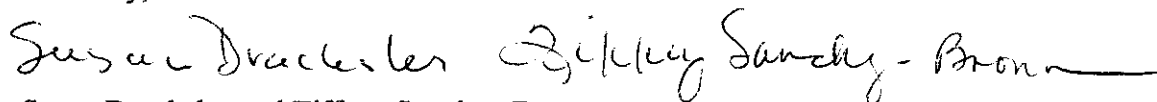
We think Safe Haven will not have the negative effect on Patrick Street that some of its neighbors anticipate. Unfortunately, a climate of fear exists around mental illness. Some may assume that the residents of Safe Haven will be violent and dangerous or create minor disturbances that will detract from businesses in the area. In reality, the people who will live at 115 N. Patrick Street may pose no greater threat to the neighborhood than any other resident on the street. CSB mental health professionals will assess all candidates for Safe Haven to select those whose background and demeanor indicate that they do not present a risk to themselves or others. More may be known about the potential behavior of Safe Haven residents than about other people who move into the neighborhood. In addition, Safe Haven will have rules to foster a safe and peaceful atmosphere for its occupants and neighbors. These are clearly outlined on the Safe Haven web site. They include regulations on noise, loitering, and behavior. Those who are concerned that the Safe Haven model includes "a low demand structure and housing first approach" need to understand that these tested strategies work toward creating the kind of trusting and cooperative environment which promotes the program's success.

The CSB has successfully operated other residences for mental health consumers throughout the City. Mental health workers at these sites are sensitive to neighbors' concerns and are quick to respond if any problems arise. We think the Safe Haven home will be as successful in maintaining neighborhood decorum as these other CSB homes have been. Regarding a concern that the building will look shabby, CSB residences are extremely well maintained. Neighbors can be sure that the Safe Haven building will be kept in peak condition.

The stigma that is associated with mental illness is often tempered by personal experience. Friends of the AMHC supports the activities of the West End Club, the city's daytime support program for Alexandrians with serious mental illnesses, and we have had positive and rewarding experiences working with its members. A West End Club consumer is an active member of the Friends' board. Many West End Club members face problems similar to the mental health problems of the people who will live at Safe Haven. Some club members are potential candidates for Safe Haven. They may even have been participants when the club was housed at 115 N. Patrick Street. The fact that these and other candidates for Safe Haven are already known to the City's mental health workers reflects well on the assessment process mentioned above.

Our City's Community Services Board has the expertise and the experience to successfully implement this important program in Alexandria. Its residents may be people we already know who need the security of a home before they can concentrate on addressing an illness that has come to them unbidden. The initial fears of those who will live near this home should not deter the installation of this important service at 115 N. Patrick Street.

Sincerely,



Susan Drachsler and Tiffeny Sanchez-Brown
Co-chairs, Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center

10
3-17-07



<Fam1stalex@aol.com>
03/12/2007 09:40 AM

To <Alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <Councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <Timothylovain@aol.com>, <DELPepper@aol.com>,
cc
bcc
Subject Safe Haven

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor McDonald and all Council Members, City Manager and City Clerk:

Over 30 years ago I began attending St. Joseph's Catholic Church at 711 N. Columbus Street. There was a family who had been members long before I became a member. This family struggled for many reasons; one of the most apparent was their own lack of education. Both parents had a very strong commitment to work and their two sons. The youngest son had challenges far beyond their understanding. He was impulsive and given to behaviors which were thought of as being of his own design. This was not true. He suffered from mental illness. He remained in the Alexandria Public Schools, which I would have to say honestly, seemed to fail him. His parents did not have the skills to advocate for a well written I.E.P. or even if needed private placement in a smaller environment to support his emotional, behavioral and academic needs. He is now a man. And for the past 10 years has gone where ever housing was available for a man with his mental health challenges. Never in his home town of Alexandria. This was never available. Even though in housing outside the city, he travels however he can to Mass at St. Joseph's. Yes, he takes medication. Is he always stable? I would say at least 92% of each year. All I know is regardless of where he finds housing or doesn't find housing, he calls the city of Alexandria his home. I know this man and other Alexandria natives would benefit immensely if they were able to remain in the city they grew up in. Rather than feeling like a system placement, they would feel at home. This could support their advancement of being productive citizens in a city they love. I hope each of you will fully support the unanimous approval of Safe Haven. I only wish this opportunity had been approved and working at least 20 years ago. Then this man could have remained in his home town, received the help he needed and may be more independent than he is today due to his transient placement history outside his city.

Respectfully,

Nancy McCormick
817 Little Street
Alexandria, VA 22301

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<kwillis@acluva.org>

03/12/2007 09:38 AM

Please respond to
<kwillis@acluva.org>

10
3-17-07

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Support for Safe Haven Special Use Permit



Time: [Mon Mar 12, 2007 08:38:14] IP Address: [66.160.91.56]

Response requested:

First Name: Kent
Last Name: Willis
Street Address: 530 E. Main St
City: Richmond
State: VA
Zip: 23219
Phone: 8046448080
Email Address: kwillis@acluva.org
Subject: Support for Safe Haven Special Use Permit
ACLU of Virginia
530 East Main Street, Suite 310, Richmond,
Virginia 23219
(804) 644-8080

March 12, 2007

The Honorable William Euille
Mayor of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: Support for Safe Haven Special Use Permit

Dear Mayor Euille:

I am writing to urge you and all members of the Alexandria City Council to support the recommendation of the Alexandria Planning Commission that a special use permit be granted to the Alexandria Community Services Board for the operation of Safe Haven for the mentally ill and substance abuse homeless at 115 North Patrick Street.

Although the report of the staff of the Department

of Planning and Zoning, which was adopted by the Planning Commission in its entirety, was excellent and responded fully to all the concerns and objections raised about the project, I think it is important to point out another factor not addressed in that report. The ACLU of Virginia believes that denial of a special use permit, or any action that would significantly restrict the operation or impede the swift establishment of Safe Haven at 115 North Patrick Street, would raise serious questions of violation of federal law.

Under the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as Supreme Court and federal appeals court decisions, a local government like Alexandria cannot deny housing on the basis of zoning laws to disabled individuals due to factors related to their disability. Further, were the City to grant a special use permit but encumber it with numerous conditions not required of other, similarly situated non-handicapped individuals in that zoning district, that action would be considered discriminatory under those acts.

Comments:

Congress said explicitly when it passed the Fair Housing Amendments of 1988 that the amendments are "intended to prohibit the application of special requirements through land-use regulations, restrictive covenants, and conditional or special use permits that have the effect of limiting the ability of [the handicapped] to live in the residence of their choice in the community." There is no doubt that the mentally disabled are protected by that statute.

The legislative history of the Fair Housing Amendments as well as the cases also state unequivocally that such housing cannot be denied on the basis of stereotypes, fears

and irrational prejudice about the mentally disabled, or simply opposition to the housing by the neighbors.

Even before the Fair Housing Act was amended to cover the disabled, the Supreme Court struck down, under the Equal Protection Clause, a local government's denial of a special use permit because of the negative attitudes of the neighbors. The Court said "mere negative attitudes, or fear, unsubstantiated by factors which are properly cognizable in a zoning proceeding, are not permissible bases for treating a home for the mentally retarded differently from

apartment houses, multiple dwellings, and the like.”

The courts have held that even unreasonable delay in granting an application for a group home amounts to constructive denial and thus a violation of the Fair Housing Act, because housing discrimination causes a uniquely immediate injury.

I thank you for your attention. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 804/644-8080 or kwillis@acluva.org.

Sincerely,

Kent Willis
Executive Director

cc: Alexandria City Council

10

3-17-07



Margaret Moore
<maggieomoore@yahoo.com>
03/11/2007 07:58 AM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Please support Safe Haven

6632 Cypress Point Road
Alexandria, VA 22312
March 11, 2007

City Clerk Jackie Henderson

Dear Ms. Henderson:

As you are the City Clerk for the City of Alexandria, I am asking for your support of the Safe Haven Program the Alexandria Community Services Board has proposed at 115 N. Patrick Street. As a parent of a mentally ill son, it is so encouraging to know there is hope of having a professional and compassionate facility in Alexandria for the severely mentally ill who have been living on the streets.

It is my guess that the people who are so opposed to the Patrick Street site have never had a mentally ill person in their family or they would be more caring and understanding.

My son has been homeless a few times during his 24 years of battling mental illness. I have known the anguish parents, friends and family have experienced worrying about what is happening to their homeless loved one on a day-to-day basis.

My son attended the day program at the Patrick Street Clubhouse for several years. I met with staff at the Clubhouse many times and always observed an orderly environment when the 60-65 consumers were there.

My son lived for a year at one of 63 residential sites - a 24-hour facility - along with seven other consumers. This group home is near Inova Alexandria Hospital on Howard Street and to my knowledge has had no problems with the consumers being in their neighborhood.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Margaret A. Moore

10

3-17-07



<sleger@earthlink.net>

03/09/2007 02:15 PM

Please respond to
<sleger@earthlink.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject Safe Haven Letter

March 9, 2007

Alexandria City Council Members,

As a resident of Alexandria and a firm believer in national, state and local plans to end chronic homelessness in 10 years, I am writing you to request your support for the current Safe Haven project at 115 Patrick Street in Old Town. Some of my friends provide hands-on volunteer services in day and cold-weather night homeless shelters in Alexandria and in Fairfax County. Through these friends I have been made aware of the needs of homeless people.

Safety and property value concerns of some Old Town residents living near the Safe Haven proposed Patrick Street location have been raised. In addressing the concerns of these residents, the Community Services Board (CSB) has made every effort to show respect and compassion for them while still standing up for the rights of those they serve. The CSB staff know the members of the target population for Alexandria's Safe Haven and will conduct an extensive pre-admission screening process. It is my understanding that after admission, on-site close observation and monitoring of individuals will be provided 24/7.

I urge you to carefully consider the information presented by the Community Services Board and then follow the path of action that best serves the rights of the City's homeless and the promise of the City's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Sleger
2424 Taylor Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22302

10

3-17-07



"Susan Drachsler"
<sdrachsler@comcast.net>

03/07/2007 10:30 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject Safe Haven - SUP #2007-0002

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of City Council,

I am attaching my letter to you regarding my personal support for Safe Haven. Please let me know if you cannot open the attachment.

Thank you,

Susan Drachsler



(703) 549-5670 Safe Haven Personal Letter Feb 2007.doc

Susan Drachsler
3313 Carolina Place
Alexandria, VA 22305

March 7, 2007

The Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
*Mayor William D. Euille, Vice Mayor Andrew H. Macdonald, Councilman Ludwig P. Gaines,
Councilman Rob Krupicka, Councilman Timothy B. Lovain; Councilwoman Del Pepper,
Councilman Paul C. Smedberg*
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: SUP#2007-0002

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of City Council,

I am writing to you again to urge you to support the use of 115 N. Patrick Street as a Safe Haven residence for homeless men and women with serious mental disabilities. Opponents to this installation are concerned with their safety and the value of their property. I believe the following facts mollify these concerns.

The CSB currently manages 63 residences for Alexandrians with mental health needs throughout the city. These homes are run with care and have enjoyed a high degree of success. Many of the consumers living in these residences have been homeless, have mental and/or substance abuse disorders, and may or may not be on medication for their disorder. Since data collection was automated in 1998, there have been no reports of serious incidents concerning these homes. For example, the experience of neighbors living near a Men's Recovery Home on E. Windsor whose residents were homeless and have mental health and substance abuse problems shows the residents have posed no problems. It is also of note that the Patrick Street building was used as a clubhouse for 60-65 CSB consumers with serious mental illnesses for more than 20 years. There is no report of a club member threatening the safety of anyone in the neighborhood.

Plans for selecting Safe Haven residents and monitoring the household should also reassure those concerned about safety. Following the guidelines of this nationally recognized model program, CSB plans include the following:

1. A limit of twelve men and women will be chosen as Safe Haven residents. They "will undergo a thorough risk assessment by experienced clinicians prior to being admitted....No one will be allowed in Safe Haven who is determined to be a risk to him/herself or others." CSB mental health workers who serve the homeless in Alexandria already know the people who will be candidates for the Safe Haven program.

2. "Safe Haven will be staffed 24/7 by mental health and substance abuse professionals who are experienced and specially trained to identify, assess and manage safety and security concerns among the residents." Residents and guests will enter through a "controlled access point" and all visitors must sign in. No guests can spend the night. There will be an expectation that Safe Haven residents will remain drug and alcohol free and will work with the staff toward treatment.

Regarding property values, CSB-run residences are well maintained. The study commissioned by the City in November 2006 concluded that the conversion of 115 N. Patrick to a Safe Haven would have "no discernable impact" on the value of the houses in the neighborhood.

Safe Haven will be a permanent home, not a shelter or institution. Based on a "housing first" model, it will place some of Alexandria's neediest residents in an environment which has been proven to help homeless individuals take steps toward services and treatment. I believe that all of the points mentioned above, plus the goal of moving chronically homeless Alexandrians from the City's streets into a worthwhile housing program, demonstrate that installing Safe Haven at 115 N. Patrick Street should be supported by the Mayor and City Council.

Sincerely,

Susan Drachsler

Susan Drachsler

10

3-17-07



"Susan Drachsler"
<sdrachsler@comcast.net>

03/07/2007 10:25 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject Safe Haven: SUP#2007-0002

Dear Mayor Eulle and Members of City Council,

Please find attached a letter regarding Safe Haven from the Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center.

If you cannot open the attachment, please let us know.

Thank you,

Susan Drachsler



(703) 549-5670 Safe Haven City Council Letter.doc

Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center
720 North Saint Asaph Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

March 7, 2007

The Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
*Mayor William D. Euille, Vice Mayor Andrew H. Macdonald, Councilman Ludwig P. Gaines,
Councilman Rob Krupicka, Councilman Timothy B. Lovain, Councilwoman Del Pepper,
Councilman Paul C. Smedberg*
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: SUP #2007-0002

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of Council,

We are writing to you about Safe Haven on behalf of the Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center (AMHC). Our board members urge you to vote for the installation of Safe Haven at 115 N. Patrick Street after the upcoming public hearing in March.

At a public hearing a year ago we heard many of our fellow citizens speak about the plight of our City's chronically homeless individuals who have mental disabilities, and we were delighted when the council approved establishing a Safe Haven at 115 N. Patrick Street. In the hands of our Community Services Board (CSB) administrators and staff, we believe that Safe Haven will be an outstanding program. Staffed day and night by skilled mental health workers, the home will be a nurturing and stable environment. Its location on Patrick Street will offer its residents easy access to City resources and programs. Residents will have a real opportunity to accept treatment and improve their condition.

Now the issue of installing Safe Haven on Patrick Street has resurfaced because the building must be designated congregate housing. It seems to us that a new zoning designation should not change the council's decision to go forward with Safe Haven at this location.

In our view Safe Haven will be a home like the other homes on Patrick Street. The only difference will be that instead of housing a traditional family, it will be a home for people who are in need of specialized help. Several people have said they support the Safe Haven concept but feel that Patrick Street is the wrong site. A history of the project reveals that a number of locations were considered. During the search process the costs of renting or acquiring new property and making necessary renovations were evaluated. Planners also considered the concentration of social service sites in other parts of the city as well as the kind of setting recommended by the Safe Haven model. After weighing all these factors, 115 N. Patrick Street was chosen as the best location for the program.

We think Safe Haven will not have the negative effect on Patrick Street that some of its neighbors anticipate. Unfortunately, a climate of fear exists around mental illness. Some may assume that the residents of Safe Haven will be violent and dangerous or create minor disturbances that will detract from businesses in the area. In reality, the people who will live at 115 N. Patrick Street may pose no greater threat to the neighborhood than any other resident on the street. CSB mental health professionals will assess all candidates for Safe Haven to select those whose background and demeanor indicate that they do not present a risk to themselves or others. More may be known about the potential behavior of Safe Haven residents than about other people who move into the neighborhood. In addition, Safe Haven will have rules to foster a safe and peaceful atmosphere for its occupants and neighbors. These are clearly outlined on the Safe Haven web site. They include regulations on noise, loitering, and behavior. Those who are concerned that the Safe Haven model includes “a low demand structure and housing first approach” need to understand that these tested strategies work toward creating the kind of trusting and cooperative environment which promotes the program’s success.

The CSB has successfully operated other residences for mental health consumers throughout the City. Mental health workers at these sites are sensitive to neighbors’ concerns and are quick to respond if any problems arise. We think the Safe Haven home will be as successful in maintaining neighborhood decorum as these other CSB homes have been. Regarding a concern that the building will look shabby, CSB residences are extremely well maintained. Neighbors can be sure that the Safe Haven building will be kept in peak condition.

The stigma that is associated with mental illness is often tempered by personal experience. Friends of the AMHC supports the activities of the West End Club, the city’s daytime support program for Alexandrians with serious mental illnesses, and we have had positive and rewarding experiences working with its members. A West End Club consumer is an active member of the Friends’ board. Many West End Club members face problems similar to the mental health problems of the people who will live at Safe Haven. Some club members are potential candidates for Safe Haven. They may even have been participants when the club was housed at 115 N. Patrick Street. The fact that these and other candidates for Safe Haven are already known to the City’s mental health workers reflects well on the assessment process mentioned above.

Our City’s Community Services Board has the expertise and the experience to successfully implement this important program in Alexandria. Its residents may be people we already know who need the security of a home before they can concentrate on addressing an illness that has come to them unbidden. The initial fears of those who will live near this home should not deter the installation of this important service at 115 N. Patrick Street.

Sincerely,

Susan Drachsler and Tiffeny Sanchez-Brown

Susan Drachsler and Tiffeny Sanchez-Brown
Co-chairs, Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center

10
3-17-07



"Brown, Ellen (PSC)"
<EBrown@psc.dc.gov>

03/07/2007 05:26 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject Safe Haven

Dear Sir/Madam -

My name is Ellen Brown. I have been a resident of Alexandria for approximately 25 years. I am writing to support the location of a Safe Haven residence at 115 N. Patrick Street and so to support the City's efforts to assist its homeless population in a constructive and reasonable way.

I understand that those who are against the location of a program to serve homeless, mentally ill Alexandrians - especially those who may have drug and alcohol problems - in their neighborhood have strong feelings on this issue. Yet, certainly there is a need for the proposed residence facility. Therefore, a key issue is where it (they) should be located. A site that was used previously for a similar purpose seems ideal.

From all I have read, it seems that the neighbors of the Patrick Street location most often make two arguments -- that neighbors might or would feel unsafe and that property values would decline. However, these are not necessary logical arguments - since the same population was served at the Patrick Street location when it was a clubhouse. As a clubhouse, it served 60 to 65 people; but, as a residence, it will serve only 12. I doubt that the people to be provided homes at 115 N. Patrick will be a threat to neighbors. Even if I am wrong, it would seem that the neighbors would be safer if the Safe Haven project is allowed to go forward, since the population to be served is the same as has been served at that location, but significantly reduced. The same reasoning applies for property values.

I believe you answered the question of whether facilities to help this homeless population should be in all neighborhoods in Alexandria when you approved the Patrick Street site for use as a Safe Haven in 2004. It doesn't seem that anything has changed since then to warrant a reversal of your decision.

In my view, the City can have confidence in the ability of the Community Services Board to successfully operate the proposed program and to screen and supervise the residents, as it has promised to do and as it has done in other locations.

Please support the location of a Safe Haven at 115 N. Patrick Street. Thank you for considering my views.

Ellen Brown

10

3-17-07



<chris.sicks@alexandriapres.org>
>
03/07/2007 02:52 PM
Please respond to
<chris.sicks@alexandriapres.org>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, cc bcc
Subject COA Contact Us: support for Safe Haven



Time: [Wed Mar 07, 2007 14:52:21] IP Address: [70.17.116.162]

Response requested:

First Name: Chris
Last Name: Sicks
Street Address: 2405 Russell Road
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-683-3348
Email Address: chris.sicks@alexandriapres.org
Subject: support for Safe Haven
City Leaders:

On behalf of Alexandria Presbyterian Church, I would like to voice my support for the Safe Haven program and the 115 N. Patrick Street proposal. Over the years, our church has worked with many people who are homeless or struggling with substance abuse. One constant has been their need for stability. A safe, structured place to live while they overcome their challenges is typically the missing component that allows them to drift for years without progress.

Comments: Our church is able to provide friendships, encouragement and a connection to God. We are also able to help with financial, employment and other counseling. But we cannot provide the things that Safe Haven is designed to do, and so I see it is an absolute necessity if we want to truly help these members of our community.

Thank you,

Chris Sicks
Alexandria Presbyterian Church
Director of Mercy Ministries

10

3-17-07

Nancy Coats/Alex
03/07/2007 11:16 AM

To Jackie Henderson/Alex@Alex
cc
bcc
Subject

fyi (in case you didn't receive)

----- Forwarded by Nancy Coats/Alex on 03/07/2007 11:15 AM -----



Victor M. Glasberg
<vmg@robinhoodesq.com>
03/07/2007 09:18 AM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, <paulcsmedberg@aol.com>
cc <jim.hartmann@alexandriava.gov>
Subject

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council:

As you know, yesterday evening the Planning Commission voted unanimously to support the application of the Community Services Board to proceed with the Safe Haven project. I write to urge you to support this decision when it reaches the City Council.

I will not repeat the myriad arguments which have been and will be presented by the CSB. Nor do I write with my civil rights lawyer's hat on. Rather, I would ask you, as you contemplate this proposal and the opposition to it, to distinguish - as I believe the Planning Commission distinguished -- between facts and innuendo; between proven track records and hypothetical scenarios; between positions grounded in fair and reasonable analyses of comparable circumstances, and positions lacking such grounding.

The choice is not between having the poor, the unsheltered, the ill and the addicted on the streets and not having them there. The choice is between trying to help them, make them more secure, and wean them away from their misfortunes, and not doing so. As opposed to the latter, the former is not only a moral policy, but a wise, prudent and self-defensive public policy.

Thank you for considering these thoughts.

Vic Glasberg

Victor M. Glasberg & Associates
121 South Columbus Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703.684.1100
Fax:684.1104
vmg@robinhoodesq.com

10

3-17-07



Edith Lund
<edilund@yahoo.com>

03/06/2007 03:06 PM

To erwagner@comcast.net, hsdunn@ipbtax.com,
jssjennings@aol.com, jlr@cpma.com, komorosj@nasd.com,
fossum@rand.org, mslyman@verizon.net,

cc

bcc

Subject Safe Haven at 115 N. Patrick St.

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am sending this letter to you, referencing Special Use Permit # 2007-0002, requesting that you support the establishment of a Safe Haven at 115 N. Patrick Street in Alexandria, Virginia for the use of those disadvantaged people who are in need of it. I feel very strongly about this and hope that you will do all you can to make sure that 115 N. Patrick Street will be dedicated for this purpose.

Very sincerely yours,

Edith Lund
3217 Martha Custis Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302

Be a PS3 game guru.

Get your game face on with [the latest PS3 news and previews at Yahoo! Games.](#)

10
3-17-07



Jean Niebauer/Alex
03/05/2007 04:13 PM

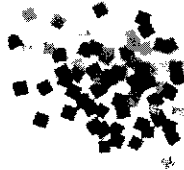
To alexvamayor@aol.com, macdonaldcouncil@msn.com,
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
timothylovain@aol.com, delpepper@aol.com,
cc jim.hartmann@alexandriava.gov,
Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov
bcc

Subject Fw: Safe Haven

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of City Council: I am forwarding to you a letter to the Planning Commission from the Chair of the Human Rights Commission, Matt Harris, speaking for the Commission, in support of Safe Haven. Jean

Jean Kelleher Niebauer
Director, Office of Human Rights
City of Alexandria, Virginia
703.838.6390

----- Forwarded by Jean Niebauer/Alex on 03/05/2007 04:07 PM -----



Jean Niebauer/Alex
03/05/2007 03:18 PM

To erwagner@comcast.net, hsdunn@ipbtax.com,
jssjennings@aol.com, jlr@cpma.com, komorosj@nasd.com,
fossum@rand.org, mslyman@verizon.net,
Kendra.jacobs@alexandriava.gov
cc Jim Hartmann/Alex@Alex, Michele Evans/Alex@Alex, Jackie
Henderson/Alex@Alex

Subject Safe Haven

Dear Chairman Wagner and Members of the Planning Commission:
Attached is a letter from the Chair of the Human Rights Commission, Matt Harris, in support of Safe Haven. Thank you for your consideration. Jean



HRC Safe Haven Ltr to PC.doc

Jean Kelleher Niebauer
Director, Office of Human Rights
City of Alexandria, Virginia
703.838.6390



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

421 KING STREET, SUITE 400
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

alexandriava.gov

703.838.6390

March 5, 2007

Chairman Eric Wagner and
Members of Planning Commission
City Hall
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Re: SUP #2007-0002

Dear Chairman Wagner and Commissioners:

On behalf of the Human Rights Commission, I want to voice support for the Safe Haven Program proposed by the Community Services Board ("CSB") for 115 North Patrick Street. The Commission is concerned that opposition to this residential program, intended to provide supported, supervised housing for homeless persons with disabling conditions in Alexandria, is based on misunderstanding and fear, which can lead to discrimination.

Federal and Virginia Fair Housing Laws and the Alexandria Human Rights Code provide protection against unlawful housing practices. The Commission believes that opponents' public policy arguments against the Safe Haven Program are a pretext for discrimination. The CSB operates many residential programs in the City successfully, as measured by both the lack of community incidents and positive outcomes for consumers. The Safe Haven Program is a "best practices" model for providing housing and services to the chronic street homeless population, and offers the same potential for success here.

The Human Rights Commission, in its role as an advisory body to the City Council and in accordance with its mandate to administer the provisions of the Human Rights Code, respectfully requests that you grant the Special Use Permit on March 6, 2007, and permit the CSB to move forward with the Safe Haven Program.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Matt Harris, Chair

cc: James K. Hartmann, City Manager
Jackie Henderson, City Clerk
Jean Kelleher Niebauer, Director, Office of Human Rights

10

3-17-07



"Alive! House"
<alive_house@verizon.net>
03/05/2007 01:56 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject Safe Haven

Ref: SUP#2007-2002

March 5, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am compelled to write this urgent letter of support for Safe Haven; I speak based on my own experience with the homeless population in Alexandria. As Director of ALIVE! House, the oldest continuously operating shelter for women and families in the Commonwealth of Virginia, I am very much aware of the ongoing need that exists for shelter and comprehensive services for the homeless and mentally disabled.

For many years ALIVE! House has operated in Old Town with the support and good will of our neighbors. They often donate needed items, water our flowers, shovel our snow and even hold an annual fundraiser on behalf of our shelter.

Statistics and endless studies have indicated no impact on the neighborhood of the proposed Save Haven, yet dissension continues while our homeless remain unsheltered, and lack even basic services. The funding is there. The need is great. It is time to set aside differences and provide for those less fortunate in our community. It is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

La Rue S. Barnes
1202 S. Washington Street, #824
Alexandria, VA 22314

10
3-17-07



"Woods, Robert"
<RWoods@comres.org>
03/05/2007 10:58 AM

To <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>,
<delpepper@aol.com>, <paulcsmedberg@aol.com>,
cc "Wellington, Kathy K." <kwellington@comres.org>

bcc

Subject Letter of support for Patrk Street Safe Haven

<mailto:Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

To: Mayor, City Council and Committee,

From: Robert A. Woods, Program Manager

Re: Safe Haven- Patrick Street location.

This is a letter of support for the Safe Haven project that is in development on Patrick Street in Alexandria. I am the Program Manager at Community Residences Safe Haven called Susan's Place located in Arlington. Susan's Place has served the homeless community for the last 10 years.

There are several benefits to the community that Safe Havens offer. Among them is housing for a population that is already highly visible on the streets in the community. Additionally, the physical, emotional, medical, and psychiatric needs of this population are addressed. The goal of the Safe Haven programs is to assist the homeless population that we serve to progress towards greater independence. This is accomplished by forming a partnership with staff, service providers, and existing government entities to afford the consumer the highest possibility for a successful Safe Haven experience. If a consumer is thought to be a danger to him/her self they promptly receive the assistance necessary to assist them through a crisis situation.

Often times it is not until a person comes into a Safe Haven that they begin to re-evaluate their lifestyle and begin the process of change that will ultimately lead the their becoming productive members of the community.

It has been my experience that consumers have entered Safe Havens and returned to school to complete studies, become gainfully employed and learned the process of, then went out and acquired housing thus reaching the goal of self sufficiency.

Susan's Place has maintained good neighborhood relations. Consumers do not panhandle, sell or use drugs or alcohol in the neighborhood and interact well with our neighbors. If there is a concern expressed by neighbor, it is addressed as soon as possible. Likewise, I believe that the Patrick Street Safe Haven will strive to maintain or exceed the standards already established by existing Safe Havens. I fully support this valuable and necessary initiative.

Submitted in Full Support,

Min. Robert A. Woods, BA Th., BA B.S.

Program Manager, Susan's Place

Community Residences, Inc.

703-465-0520

rwoods@comres.org



March 2.doc

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3-17-07

2-27-07

TO CITY COUNSEL AND PLANNING COMMISSION



IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT "SAFE HAVEN" REMAIN PART OF THE MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK IN ALEXANDRIA, THE MORE FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO THE MENTALLY ILL THE BETTER. IT IS IMPORTANT TO REALIZE THAT THOSE WHO WOULD LIVE AT "SAFE HAVEN" ARE NOT OUT OF CONTROL AND WOULD BE PROPERLY SUPERVISED. THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A PROBLEM WITH THAT FACILITY IN THE PAST AND PROBABLY NOT HAVE ANY PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA TO PROVIDE HOUSING FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT. YOU CAN'T HAVE PEOPLE IN ALEXANDRIA SAYING NOT IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD. ALEXANDRIA BELONGS TO ALL OF US!
DO THE RIGHT THING AND PERMIT "SAFE HAVEN" TO EXIST AND HAVE ALEXANDRIA BELONG TO ALL OF US; NOT JUST FOR SOME,

SINCERELY
RICHARD M. BERNHOLZ

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3-17-07



2/26/07

Safe Haven - 115 North Patric St.

I believe that the safe Haven facility would be a valued and constructive place for the continued help and assistance to people with mental health and substance abuse issues. It will be operated by city and local government agencies to insure compliance with rules and regulations for continued operations. I also believe that the facility will be beneficial to businesses in the area because many members hold jobs and pay taxes in the community.

Therefore, I am giving my support for the project and would like to see it approved so that it can provide support for people with real needs.

Sincerely

Albert

10
3-17-07

Dear City Council and Planning Commission,

02.27.07

As a consumer of the Alexandria Community Services Board, I support the old Patrick Street Clubhouse being turned into a Safe Haven. It upsets me that the neighbors should look in disapproval. The Clubhouse had been in existence for over 23 years.

We are just like you, and we deserve the right to receive treatment and live in harmony with our neighbors. To deny housing and treatment for those suffering through mental illness, substance abuse, and homelessness is a terrible injustice. Like everyone else in life, mistakes ~~can~~ might have been made. But when our fellow brother or sister has fallen, should we just turn our backs or maybe kick them to keep them down. NO, that is a terrible sin.

Please listen to your heart and allow the SAFE HAVEN to be built. We are all angels in the eyes of God most high. We are in recovery and have accepted treatment. We are also tax paying citizens.

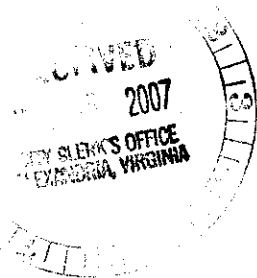
Now is the time for you to accept the SAFE HAVEN and support it.

Thank You Very Much,

Zena George Bakir

5801 Edsall Rd #301

Alexandria, VA 22304



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3-17-07

2007
CITY SLEEK'S OFFICE
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

To City Council
Planning Commission

The importance of the Safe Haven project cannot be expressed enough. The project will provide approximately twelve living spaces, for citizens of the area to find shelter, food, and a safe place to rest.

The question has been raised by a few in the community, as why would they want this implemented in their back yard? The reality of this situation is that there are many people in our area, for one reason or another are homeless. Many of these people deal with alcoholism and drug addiction, living on the streets wandering from area to area.

With the implementation of the Safe Haven project, these people can be brought off the streets and given help in dealing with the appropriate problems.

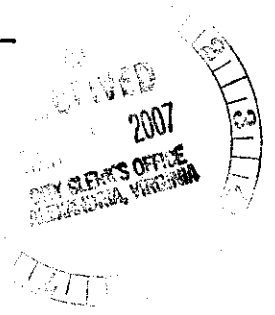
Essentially, the Safe Haven Project will become a stepping stone to get people back on their feet, helping them with mental health conditions, recovering medications they might need, therapy, and stabilizing them to continue their treatment into the future.

Without places such as the Safe Haven Project, there would be an option for our struggling citizens to return to society as the productive people they once were.

Members of the clubhouse have seen in situations of homelessness, and strongly believe the project can help the community as a whole.

Sincerely, William Hoff Jr

10
3-17-07



to City Council, Planning Commission
to who it may concern the safe
haven is to help the homeless recover
and do better at life it will be a structural
program that help people to make sure that
they take to their meds. instead of living
on the streets and not taking meds, we are
Citizens who are tax payers who do not
want to see the crime in old town, also
and we do not want people to fear the unknown.
there is nothing to be afraid of. we need these
servis to help us, we are not harmful
we like to be helpful this long term
need help for us, the club house been
on patrick street for many years and no
one cared about that was there and no one
feard us then. there will be staff mebers
and case mangers there to help out, we are
people too, we are trying to recover and be
part of the community there nothing to be afraid of.

sincerely yours,
jean castle

10

3-17-07

2007

Dear City Council officials and planning commission:

It is an excellent idea to open a Safe Haven. It should make a positive impact on the 12 people's lives it would help. It's wonderful to open a twenty-four hour seven day a week facility. Instead of people literally living on the street, it is better for them to be in a home, sheltered from bad weather.

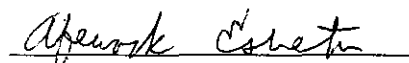
The Safe Haven is to be located at 115 N. Patrick St. (which is where the old Patrick Street Clubhouse used to be located). I have heard there are neighbors that oppose the Safe Haven. I wonder what picture they receive when they hear of the Safe Haven. It is to be a place in which its name implies; a safe place for people to go to.

I can not speak as a clinician because I am not one. But I do believe that the clinicians that evaluate what people will live there will be thorough in their evaluations. The clinicians make the assessment of who is qualified to live at the Safe Haven, and will pick people who are not dangerous to others or to themselves.

Neighbors fear several things. They fear that the Safe Haven will attract more crime, low property values, and noise.

Neighbors need not worry because they have nothing to fear. Rest assured their presence in the community should not attract low property values, crime, or noise. The old Patrick Street Clubhouse has coexisted in harmony with its community for over 20 years, and it is the intention of the Safe Haven to also coexist in harmony with its community. Many houses have been bought and sold in that time and there have not been any previous problems and/or complaints about property values. I assure you that the people who would live at the Safe Haven are no different from you or me. They would be participants in a structural program that also want no crime. They may even be taxpaying citizens who have accepted treatment and or recovery.

Yours,



Afework Eshetu

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3-17-07

To: City Council & Planning Commission
From: Pat Washington

2007
CITY SERVICES OFFICE

The clubhouse is a safe haven for many mentally ill people. As a member of the clubhouse for many years, I have learned how to live a happy & independent life within the community. The clubhouse have been a source of strength to me. I love the clubhouse & it many people. We also have a very wonderful staff ~~and~~ who help the members to become strong citizens in the community.

To City Council + Planning Commission.

10

3-17-07

The First Friend a DOG

" When the man waked up he said
" What is wild Dog doing here?"

And the woman said,

" His name is not wild Dog anymore,
but the First Friend,
because he will be our friend
for always and always and always "

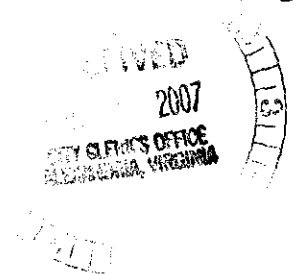
by Rudyard Kipling

I would like to be a First Friend
to Safe Haven. Man is a creature
in need of friendship. Let us show
our human friendship and loyalty to
one another by supporting the growth
of friendship in our new city SAFE HAVEN.

We all have to find and support our
sense of humanity. Protecting as well as
appreciating the vulnerable reflects back
on to our own sense of self-worth. I support
the human condition no matter what stage
it may appear in. Be a Friend to Man.

Home is a place where you can be human.
It begins in the love of humans and develops
in to a earth reality. Support the homeless With
a Safe-Haven.

Sincerely Sid



10
To City Council and the Planning Commission 3-17-27

My name Elmer Lee King Jr. I have been homeless some years ago and I told more. If I had maybe my life would've turned out different. I'm now clean for almost 28 months now and now living in Residential Housing. I finally asked for help managing my life in 04. I am a human being who had not adjusted life's rough spots. Everyone I know has or has had some problems in their life, just some more than others. I'm now doing better since asking for help over at ~~720 and here at 4110 720 St Attop and here at 4110 King St (West End Club) Having the Safe Haven is a God sent. The Safe Haven will mean alot to those who are trying to turn their life around. Who are homeless and need a place to call home. While I was homeless, I'd see so many people who were and still are without a home. I had seen not just alcohol and drug abusers, but whole families who aren't using. They have the right to have a home. Please support the Safe Haven people with mental illness are human beings, human beings who may be on drugs and alcohol. Human beings who need the Safe Haven as a citizen of Alexandria, I support the Save Haven~~

Thankyou

Elmer Lee King Jr.

10
3-17-07

Feb. 23, 2007



I'm writing to say that 115 Patrick Street should be used for a Safe Haven. I have Mental Health issues and have used the City's facilities for that, also I have been homeless in the Alexandria Community Shelter myself and there are people out there that need this place. We are tax payers and are no different than other people in the City. We are not sex offenders, we are in a structured program and we don't want crime in Old Town either.

This facility was a clubhouse with therapy sessions for Mental Health from 1984-2004 and we lived in harmony there. Many houses were bought and sold in the area in that time and there have not been previous problems or complaints about property value. In fact, many home owners didn't even know we were there when they moved in.

Please Consider These things in your Consideration of having the Safe Haven as it is needed in Old Town.

Sincerely yours,

Marie Ann - [illegible]

10
3-17-07



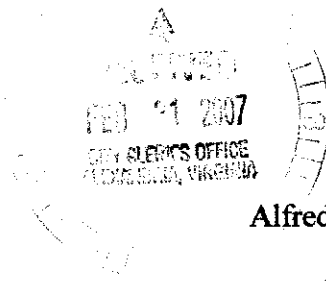
TO the city council PLANNING COMMISSION
My name is RICK SCALES I HAVE BEEN
HOMELES OFF and ON FOR 20 YEARS SUFFERING
FOME drug addiction and mentol HEALTH
CONDITIONS as well the CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
GAVE me a second chance in LIFE
I am grateful FOR All the people that are
in my LIFE such ass my therapist and
Case Managers as well as my doctor I was
in a Program called day support and a
Active member OF the CLUBHOUSE I work
Part time FOR TK delivery service
and what we do is sell the Washington
time News Paper and I am all so going
to work FOR the City Hall part time in
APRIL I am now in one OF the City Houses
and every thing is going well People that
are struggling should Be giving a second
Chance in LIFE to get it Right Homeles is
a serious Problem in the ~~united~~ USA.
People that Homeles should Have the Right
to Live iney Where they chose
So PLEASE Let them and Long ~~as~~ as they
are Law ~~abiding~~ abinding Citizens!

FROM RICK SCALES

2/26/07

A Probation not parole Facility (ie. no
limitations) will live there. Substance
Abuse recovery residents will have to
conform to rules about possessions could
lose their apartments. Residents ~~will~~^{won't}
want crime in their neighborhood either.
There is a fear of the mentally ill, a
discrimination based on lack of understanding.
If you have a family member or relative who
is mentally ill you might understand.
I ask you who is more dangerous: Someone
living on the street, without food to eat, off
their medication, without a doctor's care or ②
someone with a home, with food and medication,
under a doctor's care?

10
3-17-07



February 14, 2007

Alfred Street Baptist Church
301 S. Alfred Street
Alexandria, VA. 22314

Mayor and Council Members
Alexandria City Hall
301 King Street
Room 2300
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

I am writing to urge your continuing support of the *Alexandria Community Services Board's* Safe Haven facility at 115 North Patrick Street. A Safe Haven for individuals who are living on the street is very much needed. Such a facility will allow these individuals to be housed and, over time, receive treatment.

As many of you know, I have been involved with Alexandria's unsheltered homeless population for many years through my work at Alfred Street Baptist Church's *Hypothermia Shelter*, as well as my work at *Carpenter's Shelter* and *David's Place*. Through these programs, I have come to know first-hand the extreme difficulties faced by this population.

The 115 North Patrick Street site will provide permanent housing for 12 individuals in a setting that will enable them to learn community living skills and have access to the services they need. The Safe Haven is modeled upon a "Housing First" approach that has been proven time and again to work to keep the chronically homeless housed and to move them into services and treatment.

I strongly urge you to continue your support of the Safe Haven at the Patrick Street location.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

William M. Willis
Deacon William Willis

cc: Alexandria Planning Commission

February 14, 2007

Alfred Street Baptist Church
301 S. Alfred Street
Alexandria, VA. 22314

Mayor and Council Members
Alexandria City Hall
301 King Street
Room 2300
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

I am writing to urge your continuing support of the *Alexandria Community Services Board's* Safe Haven facility at 115 North Patrick Street. A Safe Haven for individuals who are living on the street is very much needed. Such a facility will allow these individuals to be housed and, over time, receive treatment.

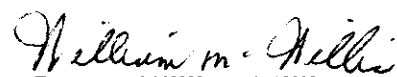
As many of you know, I have been involved with Alexandria's unsheltered homeless population for many years through my work at Alfred Street Baptist Church's *Hypothermia Shelter*, as well as my work at *Carpenter's Shelter* and *David's Place*. Through these programs, I have come to know first-hand the extreme difficulties faced by this population.

The 115 North Patrick Street site will provide permanent housing for 12 individuals in a setting that will enable them to learn community living skills and have access to the services they need. The Safe Haven is modeled upon a "Housing First" approach that has been proven time and again to work to keep the chronically homeless housed and to move them into services and treatment.

I strongly urge you to continue your support of the Safe Haven at the Patrick Street location.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Deacon William Willis

cc: Alexandria Planning Commission; City Clerk Jackie Henderson; Kendra Jacobs

City Council

CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL

10
3-17-07
FEB 23 2007
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Elementary/Junior High
3301 Glen Carlyn Road
Falls Church, VA 22041
(703) 820-7450
Fax (703) 820-9635
E-mail: info@corpuschristischool.org



Early Childhood Center
7506 St. Philip's Court
Falls Church, VA 22042
(703) 573-4570
Fax (703) 573-6832
E-mail: earlychildhoodcenter@corpuschristischool.org

February 21, 2007

The Honorable William D. Euille
Mayor, City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille,

This letter is written in support of the proposed Safe Haven project to be developed on Patrick Street in Alexandria. This support is based on my position as Principal of Corpus Christi School, which is located across the street from a similar house managed by New Hope Housing called *Max's Place* in Fairfax County.

In the fall of 1998, New Hope Housing informed St. Anthony Church, Corpus Christi School and the nearby housing communities of their intention to open a safe haven shelter for mentally disabled homeless people. As a faith based Catholic school and parish we were in support of this project. We saw in our support a practical example to what we teach as illustrated in the Beatitudes quote, "Feed the Hungry, Clothe the Naked and Shelter the Homeless."

I must admit there was anxiety regarding the project. Significant opposition came from certain parents and the neighborhood homeowners association due to the nature of the mental conditions of the residents. A town meeting was held at the school to discuss these concerns. From that meeting an advisory group was formed representing the school, parent/teacher organization and the neighboring homeowners associations. Members of the Safe Haven staff and Fairfax County representatives were also included. Concerns were addressed, basic rules established, in-services for the school teaching staff held and non-confidential information regarding the residents shared.

On November 1, 1998 the shelter held an Open House that was unfortunately marred by a group of protestors picketing the shelter. In early 1999 the first residents took occupancy of the shelter and from that time to the present there have been no reported problem incidents. The safe haven shelter has been a good neighbor and in all honesty, I sometimes forget that the shelter is across the street from the entrance to the school.

I believe the proposed Alexandria Safe Haven will provide service to the community and its residents. I urge you to support this project.

Respectfully,

George E. Chiplock, Jr.
Principal

cc: Mary Riley, Chair, Alexandria Community Services Board



10
3-17-07

6 West Linden Street
Alexandria, VA 22301
February 15, 2007

Oh, that's a City van across the street! How am I going to move into this house with my one year old, Laura, knowing a group home is across the way?
.. ...Rochelle Givens 12/05/85

Twenty years later...

Laura, what do you want to do this summer? Remember the last two summers you worked with the Therapeutic Recreation kids at the Lee Center. Oh, and how did you enjoy your recent volunteering at the Northern Virginia Training Center and the West End Clubhouse?
.....Rochelle Givens 01/08/06

Dear Mayor Euille:

Last year on January 9th I wrote a letter that began just as this one does. It still passes the tests of time. So again I write the same letter and ask for your support of **Safe Haven**. Thank you.

In the past twenty years my daughter, Laura Givens (T.C. Williams '03 & Colorado State '07), and I, have seen the City of Alexandria accomplish many things. One particular accomplishment has been to change our attitudes about individuals with special needs. The group home across the street has enriched our lives, and the City has been one of our most responsive and quiet neighbors.

Please make sure we take care of our residents who would be served at 115 North Patrick, and who can not always speak for themselves. We will be the ones who benefit.

Sincerely,

Rochelle R. Givens

cc: Alexandria City Council
Planning Commission
City Manager Hartmann

10
3-17-07



"SANDRA JORGENSON"
<sandrajorgenson@verizon.net>

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Please allow the Safe Haven to go forward

02/26/2007 04:12 PM

Please respond to
"SANDRA JORGENSON"
<sandrajorgenson@verizon.net>

Sandra Jorgenson

14 West Spring Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22301

February 26, 2007

Dear Mayor Euille, Members of City Council, and Members of the Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my support for the City's plan to create a Safe Haven facility for people with severe mental illness at 115 N. Patrick Street. I feel that this plan is excellent for this time and for this downtown location, just as it was one year ago. It is perturbing that newcomers to the neighborhood, which has been the home to many disenfranchised people since before I arrived in 1980, have been able to delay this valuable resource for the neighbors to which they now object.

I have been intimately involved with people with various degrees of mental illnesses all my life. Fortunately, nearly all have been able to provide for themselves. However, one friend was not so lucky. He was talented, charming, and very extremely gifted musically and intellectually. He had been a candidate for the priesthood and, as a resident of the seminary, worked successfully in the music program and as a teacher of mathematics. The last time I saw him, he lived in chaotic filth and was poorly fed. More than anything, he needs structure, care, and support. He would have thrived in a climate such as the Safe Haven can and should provide.

I have lived in Alexandria for over twenty-five years. I feel that by moving here I have, in fact, "come home". I am deeply grounded in this city and am proud to have given it to my

children as their home town. I feel privileged to live in this City where people, such as those who are involved with the Community Services Board, lead us in the right direction of compassion and justice for this disenfranchised group.

Alexandria is not a place of fear and hatred. Show that this is so by supporting the creation and development of the Safe Haven at 115 N. Patrick Street.

Sincerely,

Sandra Jorgenson

10
3-17-07

ROBERT C. EIFFERT
1418 Juliana Place
Alexandria, Virginia 22304
703-212-7116

February 15, 2007

Members of the Alexandria Planning Commission
Eric Wagner, Chair
City of Alexandria, Virginia
P.O. Box 178
Alexandria, Virginia 22313

RE: Reference SUP #2007-0002

Dear Eric and Members of the Planning Commission:

I am writing to urge you to support the Community Services Board's application for a Special Use Permit (SUP) for the Safe Haven program at 115 North Patrick Street in Alexandria.

As a former member of the CSB from 1986 to 1990, I am a veteran of the controversies surrounding the opening of three CSB group homes during that time, one each for persons with mental illness, mental retardation and substance abuse issues. In every case, there was tremendous neighborhood opposition, regardless of the disability area. Neighbors feared the type of population that would be in the home and worried that their property values would go down. And in every case, the controversies ended after the homes were open. Neighbors found the CSB facilities to have no impact on their own lives or homes. Certainly, the myth of declining property values has been totally dispelled!

So it is and will be with the Safe Haven. The former use of the facility, as a mental health day treatment program with a much larger client population coming and going daily, was more intense than the proposed use as a small residential facility. The location is excellent for the proposed population. When I was a City employee in the Office of Housing in 2002-2005, I had the privilege of working on the planning for the Safe Haven. I believed then and believe now that this is the right use in the right place. And I believe that the neighbors will also discover, as they always have with other CSB facilities, that the program will have no impact on their lives or property values.

I urge your unanimous support of this worthy SUP. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Robert C. Eiffert

cc: The Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

10
3-17-07



"Pinney, Robert J Dr
WRAMC-Wash DC"
<Robert.Pinney@NA.AMEDD.
ARMY.MIL>

02/20/2007 11:27 AM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>
cc <delpepper@aol.com>, <paulcsmedberg@aol.com>,
<jim.hartmann@alexandriava.gov>,
<Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

bcc

Subject FW: Safe Haven Support

-----Original Message-----

From: Pinney, Robert J Dr WRAMC-Wash DC
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2007 11:20 AM
To: erwagner@comcast.net
Cc: Robert Pinney; hsdunn@ipbtax.com; Pinney, Robert J Dr WRAMC-Wash DC;
jssjennings@aol.com; jlr@cpma.com; komorosj@nasd.com; fossum@rand.org;
mslyman@verizon.net; Kendra.jacobs@alexandriava.gov
Subject: Safe Haven Support

FROM:

ROBERT J. PINNEY, MD
Board Certified Child & Adolescent,
General and Forensic Psychiatrist
Home: 2806 Russell Road
Alexandria, VA 22305
703-836-8793
Preferred personal email:
rob.pinney@verizon.net

Offices:

Part-time practice:
805 Cameron Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-535-6644

Full-time Staff Child Psychiatrist
Walter Reed Army Medical Center
Department of Psychiatry
Borden Pavilion, Bldg #6
6900 Georgia Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20307
202-782-5982

TO:

ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS
ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL

(Reference SUP #2007-0002)

RE: Support for Safe Haven at 115 N. Patrick Street

Dear Commissioners and Council Members.

I am a relatively new member of the Board of Alexandria's CSB, but I have been practicing Psychiatry for 20 years. I have been involved in public/community mental health during most of them, including 8 years on the staff of Houston's Harris County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority before moving to Alexandria, VA.

One of the more impressive aspects of the Alexandria CSB is its willingness to look at the underlying issues when a clinical program is not succeeding. SAFE HAVEN is one of the housing programs that they have documented as needed in the community which can provide a platform upon which clients can take the steps to recovery.

As proposed, the Safe Haven project is well conceived and given the very good track record of the CSB Alexandria, will be effectively administered.

I can understand that a few of the community members might be hesitant but experience shows that well run programs engender community tolerance and even friendly neighbor support. The NIMBY (Not in my back yard) reaction is one of the divisive stigmatizing and discriminatory aspects of human nature and in the midst of such discussion I look to your considered judgment and leadership skill to help us all believe in fairness and put it into action.

I endorse the Safe Haven Project and ask that you support it with your affirmative votes.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Pinney, MD



THE ARLINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
 1725 N. George Mason Drive, Arlington, VA 22205
 TEL 703-228-4871 FAX 703-228-5234 www.arlingtonva.us/csb

10
 3-17-07

Board Members

Patrick Hope, Chairman
 Jane Adams
 Dean Bonney
 Scott Brannon
 Danielle Denenny
 Kathleen L. Donovan
 Anne Marie C. Hermann
 Kate D. Malliarakis
 Jenette O'Keefe
 James Phippard
 Major Mike Pinson
 Carol Skelly
 Jocelyn Ann Starzak
 Kiersten Coon Todt
 Naomi Verdugo
 John Youngs
 Sarah M. Zevin
 Executive Director
 Cynthia Kemp

February 12, 2007

Mayor William D. Euille
 City of Alexandria
 301 King Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314



RE: Support for the Alexandria Safe Haven Program

Dear Mayor Euille:

The Arlington County Community Services Board (ACCSB) is, once again, writing in strong support of the Alexandria Community Services Board's (CSB) proposal for the Safe Haven Program located at 115 N. Patrick Street. We urge the Alexandria Planning Commission and the Alexandria City Council to approve this important program.

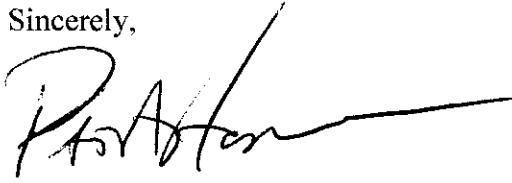
As you know, the Safe Haven program will provide much-needed permanent supportive housing to twelve (12) homeless men and women who are unable to reside in Alexandria's existing homeless shelter due to the severity of their mental illness and/or abuse of substances. Studies across the country have shown that this kind of community housing model – also known as “housing first” – has proven effective toward stability and recovery. While we are aware through media reports that a minority of local residents are in opposition to the Safe Haven program, we believe that over time these same residents will come to realize their fears and apprehensions, while understandable, were unjustified. We are extremely confident in the Alexandria CSB's ability to screen and monitor admission to only those residents capable of living in a community setting.

One of the most critical issues facing the entire Northern Virginia region is the lack of permanent supportive housing for individuals with mental disabilities. As part of a nationwide effort to move more individuals back into the community, Arlington County continues to work toward a goal to create over 400 supportive housing units for individuals with disabilities. While the Arlington plan is structured to meet this goal in a variety of different ways, the proposed Safe Haven Program is one proven model to deliver mental health care services in a setting that is conducive to recovery.

In conclusion, the ACCSB is in strong support of the Alexandria CSB's proposal to create the Safe Haven Program at 115 N. Patrick Street, and we urge the Alexandria Planning Commission and the Alexandria City Council to expedite approval of this

vital community program. Please feel free to contact me at (703) 528-8956 or the ACCSB's Executive Director, Cynthia Kemp, at (703) 228-4843 if we can provide additional information regarding our support. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Hope', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patrick Hope
Chairman

cc: Vice Mayor Andrew McDonald
Councilman Ludwig Gaines
Councilman Rob Krupicka
Councilman Timothy Lovain
Councilman Paul Smedberg
Councilwoman Del Pepper
City Manager James Hartmann
City Clerk Jackie Henderson
Alexandria Planning Commission

10
3-17-07



<toucan@ix.netcom.com>

02/19/2007 06:41 PM

Please respond to
<toucan@ix.netcom.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Safe Haven



Time: [Mon Feb 19, 2007 18:41:26] IP Address: [138.88.226.58]

Response requested:

First Name: Stetson and Sandy
Last Name: Tinkham
Street Address: 206 North Alfred Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314-2408
Phone: 703 549-7369
Email Address: toucan@ix.netcom.com
Subject: Safe Haven

February 20, 2007

To: The Honorable William D. Euille, Mayor, and Members of the Alexandria City Council

We write in support of the proposed Safe Haven facility proposed for 115 North Patrick Street.

We have lived nearby, at 206 North Alfred Street, since September 1975. We have owned the property and have been Alexandria taxpayers since January 1976. We note that many (not all) of those raising the most concerns about Safe Haven are newer residents within the neighborhood.

During the 31 years we have lived here, we have been impressed with the strides made by the Alexandria community, both through the work of the City staff and the work of City residents and organizations, to care for disadvantaged citizens.

Through our personal volunteer work and financial contributions and also through Christ Church's outreach programs, we have supported

Comments:

efforts to help the less fortunate. We understand that the most basic human need is the need for shelter. We understand that the potential residents of the Safe Haven facility would be carefully selected from a target population already living in Alexandria. We understand that providing the selected individuals with a permanent residence can be what best starts them towards a trusting relationship with those who will provide them the care they need.

The de-institutionalization of individuals with mental health and mental retardation challenges several decades ago, coupled with the increased impact of substance abuse on our society more recently, have doubtless imposed a burden on cities like Alexandria. We believe that Alexandria can continue to meet these kinds of challenges through compassion and innovation. Therefore, we support the proposed Safe Haven as a type of innovative approach, already proved successful in other communities, and urge your approval.

Sincerely,

Stetson and Sandy Tinkham

Cc: Alexandria Planning Commission; Outreach Committee, Christ Church



<mlpadvise@aim.com>
02/17/2007 09:56 PM

To <erwagner@comcast.net>, <mslyman@verizon.net>,
<hsdunn@ipbtax.com>, <jssjennings@aol.com>,
<jlr@cpma.com>, <komorosj@nasd.com>, <fossum@rand.org>,
cc <maryriley@comcast.net>

bcc

Subject Safe Haven appeal

10
3-17-07

Dear Mayor Euille, Members of Council and of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing in support of the proposed Safe Haven site at North Patrick Street, and to urge your approval of this much-needed facility for permanent supportive housing. I realize the neighborhood has raised concerns about the Community Services Board's interaction with the neighborhood, location and nature of this facility, and want to share with you my experiences with supportive housing in Arlington.

The Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing has two ongoing programs with the county's Department of Human Services in order to provide housing for the mentally ill, and are in discussions with two private non-profit services agencies to provide transitional housing for their clients at another APAH property. Like the proposed Safe Haven project, the DHS programs provide residents with 24-hour support and services - a PACT team approach. Our resident participants are located within our rental communities, and have melded into the tenant population beautifully, thanks to the support they receive from their caseworkers and other DHS staff as well as from oversight and interaction by our property management staff.

My experience with this population is that they are, by and large, mentally, physically, and emotionally fragile people, who tend to stay by themselves and avoid contact with people they don't know. The DHS resident participants have parents and family members in the community who are very concerned with their long-term welfare, and tend to have strong local ties.

I would be more than happy to provide any further explanation of how these programs operate and our experiences with them, and again urge you to help protect this vulnerable segment of the City's population by approving the site plan for this facility.

The Patrick Street site has been providing services and support for homeless residents of the city for a long time, and is an excellent example of the "Housing First" model. Housing First emphasizes the need to provide a stable environment for the chronically homeless and mentally ill in order to render services more effectively, and is acknowledged by homeless services coordinators and advocates to have an extremely high level of positive results.

Sincerely,

Martha L. Paschal

Check Out the new free AIM(R) Mail -- 2 GB of storage and industry-leading spam and email virus protection.

10
3-17-07



"Mary Martin"
<marymartin@carpentersshelter.org>

02/17/2007 11:46 AM

Please respond to
<marymartin@carpentersshelter.org>

To "Mayor William D. Euille" <alexvamayor@aol.com>, "Vice Mayor Andrew H. Macdonald" <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, "Councilman Ludwig P. Gaines" <councilmangaines@aol.com>, cc "Fran Becker" <franbecker@carpentersshelter.org>
bcc
Subject Safe Haven Support Letter

Attached, please find Carpenter's Shelter's letter of support for the Safe Haven project.

Mary E. Martin
Deputy Director
Carpenter's Shelter, Inc.
930 North Henry Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Phone: (703) 548-7500
Fax: (703) 548-3051



Safe Haven letter.BMP



Carpenter's Shelter

at The Hubert N. Hoffman, Jr. Center for Homeless Families

930 North Henry Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

(703) 548-7500

(703) 548-3167 FAX

www.carpentersshelter.org

United Way/CFC #8228

February 15, 2007

Dear Mayor Eulle and City Council Members:

For many years, Carpenter's Shelter has been the City's primary response to serving the needs of homeless people by providing shelter, education and services. We have grown from a mission shelter to a comprehensive program that is ending homelessness, one adult and one family at a time. But, we cannot do it alone.

We are successful because of our long standing alliance with the Alexandria Community Services Board. We often serve the same homeless adult or family and work together to find safe affordable housing, off the streets and outside of homeless shelters.

As an active participant in the City's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, we know what needs to happen to fulfill the plan's action steps. We need to create homes for the very difficult to serve individuals who have been living on the streets of Alexandria for many years. These adults can not or will not access Carpenter's Shelter but deserve a home.

The "Safe Haven" is a necessary step in the City's Ten Year Plan. We have no doubt that it will be very well-managed and supervised. We will continue to work with the Community Services Board to assist Safe Haven residents in their attempts to become productive members of society.

Should you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Frances Becker
Executive Director

Carson Lee Fifer, Jr.
Chairman of the Board

Northern Virginia's largest homeless program
"More than just a roof" since 1988



"Judith Lowe"
<judylowe36@comcast.net>
02/16/2007 05:47 PM

To "Andrew Macdonald" <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, "Bill
Euille" <Alexvamayor@aol.com>, "Del Pepper"
<delpepper@aol.com>, "Jackie Henderson"

cc

bcc

Subject SUP #2007-0002

10
3-17-07

Dear Council Members,

I write today to support this Special Use Permit for the Safe Haven establishment on Patrick Street. Certainly nothing has demonstrated more than the weather for the last week how badly this facility is needed. If we cannot be compassionate this time of year then I believe we have lost all facilities to care. We cannot and must not ignore the needs of our most vulnerable citizens.

As I'm sure you know we have quite a few of facilities in Del Ray. As a member of the Del Ray Land Use Committee, I have listened to the presentations for several of the CSB-sponsored facilities. About 10 years ago, we had reservations about one facility and they convinced us that it would not be a problem. Well, not only has it not been a problem, we have the great advantage of knowing some of the residents. To me, the facilities that are run by the Community Service Board are the finest in the City. The fears of the unknown are real and I do not criticize those that are afraid but I want also for you not to turn this down because of their fears. This will be a monitored home, 24/7 and the candidates for this home will be screened extensively. I trust that. What more could you ask?

I can tell you that one of the things that I miss most in the winter is the Del Ray Farmers' Market because I know when I go to the market that I will see Arthur. Arthur lives in a home in Del Ray and Arthur loves everyone and we all love him! You cannot buy a neighbor like Arthur.

Please support this use.

Judy Lowe
14 W Mount Ida Ave
Alexandria VA 22305-2521
judylowe36@comcast.net
703.548.1713 (home)

LAW OFFICE OF ROBERT C. DUNN

10
3-17-07

707 PRINCE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

Attorney and Counselor at Law

TELEPHONE: 703-836-9000
FACSIMILE: 703-684-0204

MAILING ADDRESS: PO. BOX 117
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313-0117

E-MAIL: RDUNN@ROBDUNNLAW.COM

February 14, 2007

Chairman and Members of the
Planning Commission
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Mayor and Members of City
Counsel
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RECEIVED
FEB 14 2007
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

Re: Safe Haven Project, Ref. SUP-2007-0002

Dear Chairman and Members of the Planning Commission and
Mayor and Members of City Council,

I write in support of the Safe Have Project and urge each of you
to vote for its approval without undue conditions to the special use
permit.

I have been a resident of Alexandria since 1975 and have
practiced law in Old Town since 1976.

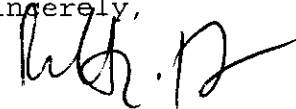
Like everyone else who has spent any appreciable time in Old
Town, I know that we have a homeless population on our streets. The
only question is how the community will respond to our homeless fellow
citizens. I believe the Safe Haven Project is well thought-out and
gives these members of our community the opportunity to become
productive, fully-engaged citizens.

Like most of you, I have been in the City long enough to see many
group homes proposed and ultimately opened. When plans were first
revealed, invariably there was an outcry from some about hypothetical
dangers, declining property values and countless other doomsday
scenarios. I have yet to see one of these necessary projects turn into
the nuisance that some predicted in the beginning. Unfortunately, the
complaints boil down to the callous mantra: "not in my backyard."

The City is simply too small for this project not to be in
someone's backyard; the proposed location is suitable for the intended
purpose.

Please pass this project.

Sincerely,



ROBERT C. DUNN

RCD/pla

10
3-17-07



"Ruth L. Chamowitz"
<rchamowitz@chamlaw.com>
02/15/2007 05:38 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, cc bcc
Subject CSB SUP Application #2007-0002

Mayor Euille and Members of Council:

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter. As a neighbor of 115 N. Patrick Street, the Safe Haven building, formerly known as the Clubhouse, and as a resident of Alexandria since the late seventies, I am distressed that we appear to be moving backward rather than forward in our acceptance of the diversity of the human population. How many of us can say we do not know any one who has suffered from a mental disorder or have not ourselves suffered the terrible affliction of depression, severe anxiety, disorientation or a similar life-altering condition.

Yet today here we are having to explain and rationalize to a vitriolic minority why City and Federal funds are being proposed for a residential home for some twelve citizens of our historic city.

There was a time when I found NIMBYism to be laughable because I viewed the proponents to be so shallow and out of touch. Now I am saddened that the affluence of a collective few has cost the City more money to defend its legal position than it would cost the City to operate the Safe Haven for a year. And because the City may have failed in its obligation to adhere strictly to its rules, those homeless persons who were destined for a better life at Safe Haven have been set back more than two years in their quest for a normal home.

The issues are clear: Will those who govern our City succumb to the pressures of the affluent Old Town neighbors who wish to remain insulated from reality, or will they create parity in our neighborhoods and create a model home between King and Cameron, beside the alley from Patrick and to my law firm on Alfred. The issues of medications, curfews, lighting, crime, loitering, cigarette butts, roof garden spying, urination, suicide and fear for the lives of their little girls are but manifestations of our own ignorance and insecurity. This is congregate housing in the City center. It is necessary housing for those who today sleep alternatively on steam grates and under the shelter of bridge abutments.

If we knew what goes on in the homes of our current neighbors, it would be less easy to hide behind the shield of ignorance that allows us to speak out against those fears of the unknown and unfamiliar. How many of our medicine cabinets or those of our neighbors do not contain Paxil or Effexor or Zoloft or Wellbutrin or Prozac or Klonopin or one of the many anti-depressants or anti-anxiety drugs now on the market? Mental illness is not so far from us that we can continue to ignore it.

We have a duty to each other. I trust that you will show courage and help your fellow citizens to a place they can call home. A "Safe Haven."

Respectfully,

Michael J. Chamowitz
Attorney at Law

Office: 118 N. Alfred Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Home: 805 E. Timber Branch Parkway
Alexandria, VA 22314

10

3-17-07



Meredith Wade
<funat207@hotmail.com>
02/15/2007 09:27 PM

To <erwagner@comcast.net>, <hsdunn@ipbtax.com>,
<jssjennings@aol.com>, <jlr@cpma.com>,
<komorosj@nasd.com>, <fossum@rand.org>,

cc

bcc

Subject Safe Haven (Reference SUP #2007-0002)

To Members of City Council and the Planning Commission:

I am writing in support of the Safe Haven initiative and to express my support to the program at the Patrick Street location. One of my nieces is developmentally disabled. She lives in Des Moines, Iowa, and has a wealth of opportunities and services available to her. At some point, that community made some far-reaching and difficult decisions to ensure that her potential would be realized and protected. It is my belief that knowing she is well cared for and protected is not only to her advantage, but also to her family and community, both immediate and extended.

I hope I will be thanking you for taking this important step for our community soon.

Meredith S. Wade
207 Woodland Terrace, Alexandria, VA 22302

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10
3-17-07



"Pamela Michell"
<pmichell@newhopehousing.org>

02/15/2007 04:49 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, cc <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

bcc

Subject SUP #2007-0002

Dear Mayor Euile and City Council Members,

Please read the attached letter about the Patrick Street Safe Haven. Thank you.

Pam Michell
Executive Director
New Hope Housing, Inc.
8407-E Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA 22309
(703) 799-2293 x. 17
(703) 799-6503 (fax)
www.newhopehousing.org



safe haven support (3).doc



Mayor and City Council
City of Alexandria, Virginia

Re: SUP #2007-0002

Dear Mayor Euile and Council Members,

I am writing to offer New Hope Housing's strong support for the Safe Haven project to be developed on Patrick Street in Alexandria. This support is based on 8 years of operating a safe haven called Max's Place in the Falls Church area of Fairfax County.

Safe havens meet a very special and unique need in the housing continuum for people who are chronically homeless, have disabilities, and are resistant to treatment. They provide a safe and supervised environment in which persons who have been alienated from "the system" can be accepted, kept safe, learn trust, and can begin to access the services they want and need at their own pace.

When Max's Place opened in 1999, we had significant opposition, including picketing at our open house, which was the topic of a *Washington Post* story. Today, those same neighbors bring food to the house. Our program is directly across the street from an elementary school, and in 8 years there has not been one problem incident.

When we opened, we hoped that residents would stay 6 months. Instead, we have been able to create an environment where chronically homeless, "street" persons, who had failed in all other programs, have a home. Today in our 8-bed house we have six original residents and the most recent resident has been in the program for more than two years. Only two residents have left the program unsuccessfully, and both decided to leave voluntarily. We have linked residents to much needed mental health medication and services and to benefits. While we expected to work on psychiatric issues, we have found that health issues are an even more serious concern for residents. One resident died of lung cancer and another is now in a nursing home.

The persons the Alexandria Safe Haven will serve already live in the community -- on our streets. Isn't it better for them and for the community at large that they live in a safe place with supports where they can thrive and be healthy?

I urge you to support the Safe Haven project.

Sincerely,

Pamela L. Michell
Executive Director

*Founded as
Route One Corridor
Housing in 1977,
New Hope Housing
provides homeless families
and individuals shelter
and tools to build
a better life.*

8407-E Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA 22309

703-799-2293

Fax 703-799-6503

www.newhopehousing.org

admin@newhopehousing.org

Eleanor U. Kennedy Shelter
703-799-0200

Mondloch House
703-768-3400

CFC/United Way # 8179

February 15, 2007

10

3-17-07



Paula Tarnapol Whitacre
<ptw@fullcircle.org>
02/15/2007 03:03 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject In support of Safe Haven

Dear Mayor, City Council Members, and Planning Commission Members,

Last year, I wrote a letter of support to establish the Safe Haven house in our city. I wish to reiterate my support for several reasons:

--The home seems to be an answer to a problem. Not providing a solution does not mean that the problem does not exist or will go away on its own.

--The Community Services Board has a record of effective work in our city. They are not swooping in from the outside with a solution that will not fit us.

--A home like this, with a very structured yet compassionate environment, seems a long-term, effective approach, and one that our city should support.

Thank you.

Paula Whitacre
600 Ft. Williams Pkwy.
Alexandria, VA 22304

10
3-17-07



tiffany sanchez
<tiffenyfs@yahoo.com>
02/15/2007 11:22 AM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject Safe Haven

Dear Mayor & City Council Members,

I am writing to urge you to support the use of 115 N. Patrick Street as a Safe Haven residence for homeless men and women with serious mental disabilities. It is my believe that we could do so much good, by providing homeless individuals with mental health issues a "Safe Haven", a home with intensive 24 hour a day supervision and care. The benefits of a program like Safe Haven in our community are many, but I will highlight just a few:

- * This program would provide permanent housing to 12 homeless men and women, many of whom are long-term Alexandria residents
- * The Safe Haven program is a proven and nationally-recognized model for providing housing and services to the chronic homeless population
- * The program is cost effective and will utilize primarily federal and state funding
- * The program should not negatively impact property values for neighboring homes

Because mentally ill people who are homeless are more than twice as likely to be hospitalized as mentally ill people with housing, improving care for homeless people with serious mental illness will be cost effective rather than costly. It will decrease visits to the emergency rooms and decrease the time spent unnecessarily in jail because there is no other place to "house" the homeless.

As with anyone, when mentally ill people are treated with dignity and respect, they respond very well. It has been the practice in our society to shelter the homeless without thought to a permanent place to live. This makes it harder on the mentally ill person whose coping skills are already compromised. We should all want to fight for a better solution; to fight for permanent supportive housing programs such as Safe Haven.

As you know, many people have worked for years on the Safe Haven project. I feel that it would be most beneficial to our community. Again I urge you to

support this worthwhile program.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Sanchez
2306 Cameron Mills Road
Alexandria, Va 22302



<RNew105@aol.com>

02/15/2007 09:25 AM

To <erwagner@comcast.net>

cc <hsdunn@ipbtax.com>, <JssJennings@aol.com>,
<jlr@cpma.com>, <komorosj@nasd.com>, <fossum@rand.org>,
<mslyman@verizon.net>, <kendra.jacobs@alexandriava.gov>,
bcc

Subject Safe Haven

10

3-17-07

Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and for supporting a project like Safe Haven. I have lived in Alexandria for 37 years, my entire adult life, and I am a practicing Clinical Psychologist in the city. I work primarily with children and adolescents, but I am well aware of the problems faced by adults with serious, chronic mental illness. Our streets have been filled with them since the de-institutionalization projects of the 1970s. Getting the mentally ill out of the warehouse conditions in large hospitals was an idealistic plan. However, the community support to care for these people never quite lived up to expectations. I strongly support programs like Safe Haven and hope that we will develop even more. I own property at 805 Cameron Street, which is around the block from the proposed Safe Haven site. I am proud to have such a program in my neighborhood. As a relatively new member of the Community Services Board, I appreciate the pressures, both financial and political, that the city is under to provide for its mentally ill residents. Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Roberta R. New

105 W. Masonic View Ave.

10
3-17-07



"Connie and Karin McFang"
<mcfangs@hotmail.com>

02/14/2007 06:45 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject Support for Safe Haven at 115 N Patrick St

Constance McCabe
206 East Alexandria Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22301
(703) 836-0203

February 14, 2007

Dear Mayor Euille, Members of the City Council and Planning Commission, and
City Manager,

Despite its location within a huge metropolitan area, Alexandria City has the feeling of a small town with well-educated and caring citizens, most of whom are free of serious financial or life-threatening psychological challenges. It is important that we recognize that a wealthy and vital historic urban setting such as Alexandria brings with it a diverse population, including those who struggle with the daily challenges of homelessness, mental illness, and substance abuse disorders. Safe Haven offers a cost-effective means to provide opportunities for a few of our less-fortunate citizens to move toward independent living. I applaud the important efforts of the community and our elected officials to provide the safe and necessary structure offered by Safe Haven.

Sincerely,

Constance McCabe

Search for grocery stores. Find gratitude. Turn a simple search into something more.

http://click4thecause.live.com/search/charity/default.aspx?source=hmemtagline_gratitude&FORM=WLMTAG

10

3-17-07



<davidingold@comcast.net>
02/14/2007 09:04 PM

To <erwagner@comcast.net>, <hsdunn@ipbtax.com>, <jssjennings@aol.com>, <jlr@cpma.com>, <komorosj@nasd.com>, <fossum@rand.org>, <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
bcc

Subject Safe Haven

Dear Planning Commission Members, Your Honor the Mayor & City Council Members,

This is a heart-felt, very sincere letter of support for the subject facility. On a personal note, I once terminated the employment of someone whose behavior was eccentric, fearing for my safety and the safety of others who were then on my staff of a federal agency. Later, I had a member of my family diagnosed with a mental health condition that was initially not adequately addressed, but later was resolved thanks to the competence of a mental health expert. This same family member was in need on occasions when their health deteriorated of a "safe haven" facility as they were homeless and a runaway. I am deeply indebted to the facilities in jurisdictions other than Alexandria where this individual found a safe harbor. I feel as I have been "on both sides of the coin" on this issue. I have been both fearful and ignorant of what individuals may do and grateful to facilities who have risen above these fears and provided a safe haven to persons in need of facilities of this kind.

I very much hope that you will have courage and, notwithstanding the objections of persons who believe otherwise, you will vote in support of Alexandria's establishing such a facility. There is a great need for it. No one, however vehemently they may currently object to such facilities, is beyond needing such facilities for themselves or a member of their family. Some people, such as myself formerly, may scoff at this idea. Experience has taught me otherwise.

Sincerely,

David A. Ingold
3515 Saylor Place
Alexandria, VA 22304

10
3-17-07



"Ruth L. Chamowitz"
<rhamowitz@chamlaw.com>
02/14/2007 10:49 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
cc

bcc

Subject CSB application SUP # 2007-0002

February 26, 2006

Mayor Euille and Members of Council:

You will have before you on your docket of March 17th an application for a Special Use Permit by the Alexandria Community Services Board for a Safe Haven Residential Facility at 115 N. Patrick Street. I address you in strong support of that application. Since your staff and others will no doubt see to it that you are well versed in the Safe Haven program, I would like to draw your attention to some of the fears of the few but stridently outspoken neighbors who do not want a Safe Haven in their back yards and will reference my personal experience in so doing.

First, I readily acknowledge that I am a member of the CSB, having been appointed two years ago by you to serve as a citizen member. I write this letter not as a member of the CSB but purely for personal reasons and to relay my own experiences.

I co-own the office building at 118 N. Alfred Street, less than a block from 115 N. Patrick Street and sharing a common alley. For 18 years, I practiced law in that location until I retired in 2001. During nearly all of that time, the CSB operated the Clubhouse at the N. Patrick Street location, serving 5 days per week virtually the same population as will be served by Safe Haven. The differences between it and Safe Haven are that the Clubhouse was day treatment for 60 people, Safe Haven will be residential treatment for 12 people and a lesser percentage of the Clubhouse members were homeless. The Clubhouse members were excellent neighbors, causing absolutely no disruption or harm, and passing me and members of our firm quietly in the alley and on the street. One need only to look at the history of the Clubhouse at that location, which had neither strict attendance rules nor strict compliance with administration of medication, to see that treatment along with excellent staff supervision is a formula for success.

I would like to point out that I was held up at gunpoint getting into my car behind my office after dark. The perpetrator was arrested, charged, convicted and incarcerated. I was also mugged one evening on N. Lee Street, one block from King Street in a well-lit affluent neighborhood. To my knowledge, neither attacker had any relationship to the Clubhouse. My experiences indicate that there is risk of violence in the City.

At a recent CSB outreach community meeting with neighbors, a few attendees spoke of the prospects of having to live in fear because there will be persons with mental illness and/or substance abuse problems, which are also now deemed to be an illness, living near them. I have a "mental" illness: recurrent major depressive disorder, which I have had for 17 years and which is often severe. It has been treatment resistant and has required intense medical care, several hospitalizations, unlimited drug trials, my own fastidious administration of numerous medications, the financial wherewithal to make this all possible and the unlimited support of my close family and many friends. If I did not have all of these things going for me, at worst, I would not be alive, and at best, I would be a candidate for Safe Haven. In neither case would I pose a danger to the neighbors of 115 N. Patrick Street.

Neighbors have complained that residents of Safe Haven will not be required to take their medications. It is only under the very rarest and strictest of circumstances that an institutionalized person may be administered a medication against his/her wishes, or, in extremely rare cases, in jail, pursuant to a court order. In psychiatric units of hospitals, a patient is told the name of each medication, for what it is given and asked whether or not he/she chooses to take it. The opponents of this program seem to think that any resident who is not taking his/her medications should be ejected from the program. However, this result

would only serve to again render the resident homeless and in no treatment at all. The intent of Safe Haven is to bring about willful compliance by each resident.

Curfews seem to be another issue with these vociferous neighbors. It is unlikely that candidates for Safe Haven will consider the program if they are to be locked down. It is even more unlikely they would stay. Such confinement may even be unlawful. By virtue of their homelessness, they live on our streets with no curfews, no treatment and no structure in their lives. It would be unfortunate to have such a successful program defeated over the issue of curfews.

The Safe Haven program has a proven track record for success. Alexandria has a problem with homeless people, most suffering from a treatable illness, who need housing. Safe Haven is a way to assure some of these people get both of these and the possibility of a normal lifestyle.

Please approve the SUP for congregate housing to be used for a Safe Haven at 115 N. Patrick St.

Best regards,

Ruth Lankford Chamowitz

Attorney at Law, Retired

805 E. Timber Branch Parkway

Alexandria, VA 22302



<TOCGEE@aol.com>

02/14/2007 10:54 PM

To <Alexvamayor@aol.com>

cc <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <Councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <Timothylovain@aol.com>, <DELPepper@aol.com>, <PaulCSmedberg@aol.com>

bcc

Subject (no subject)

10

3-17-07

Dear Mayor William Euille:

I am writing to express my *strong* support for the proposed Safe Haven house at 115 N. Patrick Street, and have been greatly dismayed to see the proposed rehabilitation process continuously delayed due to a neighborhood lawsuit. I currently volunteer with the Lazarus Outreach Ministry, located at Christ Church and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Alexandria, and probably assist many homeless individuals who would benefit from the Safe Haven program.

I attended the recent January 30, 2007 community meeting, sponsored by the Community Services Board, where Carol Layer, J. Michael Gilmore and Mary Riley provided extensive documentation, both written and oral, about the Safe Haven concept. Unfortunately, the community members who voiced negative opinions, were clearly uninformed about the needs of people with mental illness.

It is a known fact that more than fifty percent of homeless people are also mentally ill. A home, which has a professional staff to facilitate residents' transition and integration into our community, is a most humane method of treatment.

I worked at St. Elizabeths Hospital for nine years, during which time the Reagan administration began deinstitutionalizing large numbers of individuals from mental health facilities across the country. Unfortunately, President Reagan failed to put into place a comprehensive, community-based system of services that would facilitate individuals' re-entry into their communities. Therefore, I saw, firsthand, the results of deinstitutionalization -- people with mentally illness who were also faced with homelessness. For the few who were placed in nearby residential facilities, I recall seeing many folks, young and old, who visited our waiting rooms on a daily basis because they were locked out of their "new" community housing until the evening meal.

The Safe Haven house will be a long overdue place of refuge, peace and learning for homeless people with disabilities. Since mental illness has no poster child, we must all be advocates for people with these disabilities who reside in our wonderful city of Alexandria, and beyond.

Thank you for all you do for our city.

Gail E. Evans

330 S. West Street, Unit 505
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-836-4965

10
3-17-07



"Leonard Rubenstein"
<LRubenstein@phrusa.org>

02/14/2007 02:32 PM

To <erwagner@comcast.net>, <hsdunn@ipbtax.com>,
<jssjennings@aol.com>, <jlr@cpma.com>,
<komorosj@nasd.com>, <fossum@rand.org>,
cc <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>,
<jim.hartmann@alexandriava.gov>

bcc

Subject Safe Haven

Dear Mayor Euille, Members of Council, and Members of the Planning Commission

I am writing to urge you to support the Community Services Board's SUP application for the Safe Haven at 115 N. Patrick Street. (Reference SUP 2007-0002). There is a desperate need for housing for the population this program will serve and the city should continue a long tradition of serving the needs of the most vulnerable people in our city - and there are rights at stake as well. I urge you to support it.

I have lived in the city for almost thirty years, and it has always been a source of pride that it has striven to be a true community and not turned its back on those most in need. Moreover, the safety of everyone in the city is likely to be enhanced by stable housing for this population. Keeping people homeless does nothing to protect our security.

Having served on the Community Services Board for six years during the 90's, I am very familiar with community opposition to special needs housing. During my tenure, not a single facility was opened without substantial community opposition. And yet when one looks at the record of special needs housing in Alexandria for people with mental illness, substance abuse problems, or mental retardation or who are homeless and others, the record is extraordinarily positive. We should express our pride as a city that, as Mayor Euille emphasizes, is for everyone, by embracing uses like this. There is no room with a city with such values to oppose such a use, especially given that the parade of horrors cited by the opponents, while always cited in fights like these, never comes to pass.

Sincerely,

Len Rubenstein

17 W Cedar St.

10
3-17-07



<Pashbrook@aol.com>
02/14/2007 10:14 AM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Safe Haven

Dear City Clerk Jackie Henderson,

I'm writing to express continuing support to make the Safe Haven program a reality at 115 N. Patrick Street. I have family and friends with mental illnesses, most of who are not terribly impaired by their illness. Treatment, not ignoring such illnesses, is the way to help people live with mental illness. I support Safe Haven because the program will work to bring people who are chronically homeless into housing, services, and treatment.

The Alexandria Community Services Board has been serving people with severe mental illnesses and substance use disorders for a long time, and through outreach, knows the population who will live at the 115 N. Patrick Street Safe Haven. All people need a place to live. As an Alexandrian since 1987, I reject the notion that people with severe mental illnesses do not belong in our city. As a resident of the Warwick Village neighborhood, I know that a neighborhood is a community; one that we hope will strive to take care of all of its people because, in the long run, doing so makes the world a better place to live.

We who live and raise our children in Alexandria need to know that we won't be "kicked out" of the city if we develop mental illnesses. Not every child grows up into a problem-free adult and as a city we need to be there for those with mental illnesses just as much as we are for other concerns.

The riches of our city can be measured in many ways. Please make the Safe Haven residence at 115 N. Patrick Street a reality, so our city can add this necessary service, this jewel, to its crown.

Thank you for your service to the city,
Peggy Ashbrook

212 Guthrie Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22305
703-548-5624 home
703-472-7241 cell

10

3-17-07



"margaret howe"
<mjhowe@ultaris.com>
02/14/2007 10:02 AM

To <erwagner@comcast.net>, <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>, <kendra.jacobs@alexandriava.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Safe Haven

----- Original Message -----

From: margaret howe
To: alexvamayor@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2007 11:52 AM
Subject: Safe Haven

Dear Mayor Euille,

I hope you, the Planning Commission, and the City Council will again look favorably upon the proposed Safe Haven in Alexandria project. It is hard to believe that I am again writing you about this a year after my last plea to you. Those who will manage this project have proven their skills in caring for the homeless and mentally ill. Would we rather see these unfortunate persons on the street, than allow those who are willing and capable provide the care and supervision they need.

Thank you for listening.

Margaret Howe

10
3-17-07



"Fairlington Presbyterian Church" <office@fpcusa.org>
02/14/2007 09:49 AM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>, <jim.hartmann@alexandriava.gov>, <paulcsmedberg@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>,
cc
bcc
Subject Safe Haven

Mayor and Council Members
Alexandria City Hall
301 King Street
Room 2300
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

As you know, Fairlington Presbyterian Church has a strong record for serving the people of Alexandria through our Computer C.O.R.E. program and other services to the city. We open our doors to a number of community groups and organizations. And we are asking you now to support another program which will care for the neediest in our community. Please support the *Alexandria Community Services Board's (CSB) Safe Haven* program at 115 N. Patrick Street which will provide housing and supportive services to 12 homeless, mentally ill men and women who are currently living on our streets.

The Safe Haven was identified as a high-level priority of the CSB, as well as the *Homeless Services Coordinating Committee*, a coalition of more than 40 public and private agencies serving homeless Alexandrians, many years ago. It was incorporated as a priority objective into the City's *Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development* in 2000, and in the City's *Strategic Plan*, as well as the City's *Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness*.

The CSB has been operating residential programs with professional mental health staffing in Alexandria for more than 25 years, and currently operates 63 residential sites (173 beds) across the City. While the neighbors of 115 N. Patrick Street complain of disruption to their neighborhood, it should be recognized that since 1998, when data collection was automated, the CSB has served a total of 703 consumers in its residential programs with no significant community incidents and a high degree of success, as measured in part by consumers' movement to more independent living. The Safe Haven offers the same potential for success.

Federal Fair Housing law prohibits discrimination against the potential consumers of the Safe Haven, as they are protected by virtue of their mental health disabilities. The CSB's Housing Plan has identified Old Town as having the lowest density of special needs housing in the City. In addition to these reasons, the 115 N. Patrick Street location is an ideal placement for the Safe Haven as this neighborhood is known to the consumers and it is close to the services and other amenities (transportation, etc) required to integrate these individuals back into our community.

Many of the individuals who are living on our streets are long-term Alexandrians and have attended our City schools. Some are veterans. It is untenable in a City of our wealth to have people living on our streets. As a caring community, we must offer housing as a first step to recovery.

We will expect you to continue your support of Safe Haven. Thank you for your service to Alexandria and come visit us at Fairlington Presbyterian anytime.

Sincerely yours, Jan Edmiston
Pastor, Fairlington Presbyterian Church

10

3-17-07



"Bovey Office"
<boveyoffice@worldnet.att.net>

02/14/2007 09:27 AM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject Please approve Safe Haven

I would like to express my support for the Safe Haven shelter for the homeless mentally ill. This building has been used to provide services for the mentally ill for more than 20 years. The Community Services Board and Staff have and will ensure that their clients are properly supervised while living there. This is a chance to treat and stabilize 12 of the 80-100 mentally ill homeless that currently live on the street in the most dreadful conditions. Please vote to approve this facility. Best Regards, Rosalind Bovey

10
3-17-07



"Kevin & Diane"
<grim.charles@verizon.net>
02/14/2007 08:09 AM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Safe Haven

February 14, 2007

Dear Clerk Henderson:

I wanted to share this letter with you, as I have sent it to the Mayor, Vice Mayor and Members of City Council as well as Planning Commission Members.

I am writing this letter to express my support for a Safe Haven in Alexandria. As you are aware, Alexandria's Safe Haven will provide a permanent supportive housing program for 12 men and women who are currently living on Alexandria's streets.

I was very pleased and proud of the City Council when they approved the site for a Safe Haven in Alexandria to be located at 115 N. Patrick Street, the former location of the Patrick Street Clubhouse. I ask that you continue moving this process along so that the reality of a Safe Haven can happen as soon as possible. I've been very impressed that the CSB has done extensive outreach to the neighbors and the community. It's also important to note that the CSB has been operating residential programs in Alexandria for more than 20 years. The CSB currently operates 63 residential sites (173 beds) across the City. Since January 1998, when data collection was automated, the CSB has served a total of 706 consumers in its residential programs with no significant community incidents and a high degree of success.

I believe that having a Safe Haven in Alexandria provides a needed housing program that will mean improved human conditions for those in our community who would otherwise continue living on our streets. Although I know there has been concern expressed about the individuals who will be a part of the program, no one who is assessed to present a danger will be admitted. Additionally, close observation and monitoring will be provided 24 hours a day. It is the right thing to do for these individuals and for our community. I ask that you continue to support the Safe Haven that was approved in 2004.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Diane

Diane L. Charles
1065 N. Paxton Street
Alexandria, VA 22304

10

3-17-07



"Mary Denby"
<maryandchris@comcast.net>

02/13/2007 10:47 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, <paulcsmedberg@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject Safe Haven Support

My husband and I, as residents of Alexandria, just want to offer our support for Safe Haven. We hope that you will make Alexandria city a community that reaches out and takes care of those that have special needs and not just a community only for the elite.

Our Thanks-

Mary & Chris Denby

10
3-17-07



"Cathryn Coone-McCrary"
<cathryn.coonemccrary@gmail.com>

02/13/2007 04:47 PM

To Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Safe Haven, SUP # 2007-0002

Dear City Clerk:

I am particularly interested in the Safe Haven controversy because I myself have suffered from depression and anxiety for over 25 years. Mental illness and substance abuse, two often entwined ailments, run in my family. My childhood itself was difficult; I spent much of my formative years trying to keep the peace between my parents. From my teens through my twenties, I excelled academically, earning a PhD in English and winning a teaching award at the University of Georgia, where I taught freshman composition for eight years. In spite of this external success, I suffered in silence, too ashamed to seek out help.

I was finally forced to do so when my husband gave me an ultimatum: get professional help, or get divorced. For the last ten years, then, I have been learning how to live with mental illness. This recovery is an on-going, extraordinarily difficult process, involving therapy, medication, exercise, yoga, meditation, and the list goes on. In essence, recovery has entailed a complete "re-boot" of how I view the world, and it has required me to repeatedly revise my hopes and dreams. Having a serious mood disorder is a lot like knowing that you have broken your leg not once, but that you are at risk of doing so over and over. With one crucial difference: depression can kill you. Even now, as I am writing this letter to you, I know that I must do everything I possibly can to maintain my mental health. And I know that this will always be a hard-fought, uphill battle for me.

I am writing to you because the Safe Haven's target population so desperately needs help. I have had psychological help, the support of friends and a loving husband, and--what we all tend to take for granted--a roof over my head. I cannot imagine how terrible and almost impossibly difficult it would be to try to recover from mental illness and/or a dual diagnosis when one is HOMELESS! My own struggle has been difficult enough; I cannot imagine being chronically homeless and mentally ill. I'm not sure how, or if, I would survive on the streets.

I recently volunteered at a hypothermia shelter in Alexandria. The 25 clients slept in sleeping bags on a linoleum floor; they did not have pillows, and only thin pads were between them and the floor. A light was on in the room all night long. Snoring filled the air. Many of the clients were unshowered; some were visibly unhealthy, and a few appeared to have substance abuse problems as well as mental health issues. As someone for whom even a good night's rest is indispensable for the maintenance of a healthy mood, I cannot even imagine living like these people do on a daily basis. What must it be like to go from shelter to shelter, up and out by 7 AM, wandering the streets daily, hungry, exhausted--AND WITHOUT TREATMENT FOR ONE'S MENTAL

ILLNESS? How could an individual even begin to return to a normal life, to think about getting a job, to save money, to find a place to live?

The Safe Haven model, a nationally recognized program that uses a low-demand/housing-first model found to be effective in treating this population, is one answer. Not only would the Safe Haven offer a new life for 12 individuals, but safety would also be ensured by the Community Services Board's careful screening policy. Safe Haven clients will not be transients; they will be well-known by CSB staff who will have access to their records, including criminal background information, in the evaluation process. The CSB will exclude from the Safe Haven those who pose an unmanageable risk to themselves or to others. Specifically, the CSB will not allow sex offenders, pedophiles, or fire-setters into the program. This screening process will be ongoing. Furthermore, the 12 Safe Haven residents will be expected to follow community rules. Though they will be allowed to come and go peacefully like any other law-abiding citizens, they will not be permitted to loiter or otherwise disturb neighbors. No illegal drugs, alcohol, or weapons will be allowed on the premises. Visitors will be required to give 24-hour advance notice, and overnight guests will not be allowed. The CSB will handle complaints promptly and effectively, first with verbal or written warnings and finally with temporary suspension of services. Certain infractions, such as physical aggression or illegal activities on the premises, will result in immediate discharge, however.

The degree of staffing will allow for close monitoring at all times. Two direct service staff will be at the Safe Haven seven days a week, including awake overnight coverage. These professionals, who will receive extensive training, will be under the supervision of a licensed clinician. In total, 10 full-time individuals will be on site to provide around-the-clock supervision 24 hours a day. And all of the CSB's professional resources will be available to the Safe Haven, including, among other things, psychiatrists and emergency services.

For over 20 years, the CSB successfully operated a Clubhouse at 115 North Patrick Street, the proposed location for the Safe Haven. Additionally, since January 1998, when data collection was automated, 706 clients have been served in CSB programs, with no major community incidents. Given its excellent track record, the CSB has every promise of success with this newest facility. The time of delay is over. Please approve the CSB's application for a special use permit, and help make the Safe Haven a reality!

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Cathryn Coone-McCrary

2721 Ice House Rd., Apt 102
Alexandria, VA 22314

10
3-17-07



"Matthew MCKEOWN"
<msphmck34@msn.com>
02/13/2007 03:57 PM

To <erwagner@comcast.net>, <hsdunn@ipbtax.com>, <jssjennings@aol.com>, <jlr@cpma.com>, <komorosj@nasd.com>, <fossum@rand.org>, cc bcc

Subject Please Support Safe Haven at 115 N. Patrick St.

Dear Leaders and Neighbors of Alexandria,

I am writing to you today to ask for your support of the Safe Haven project at 115 N. Patrick Street. Important housing projects like this not only help get homeless people off the street, but can support people to contribute to the greater good of society. I have a personal story to share with you that changed my view of homeless people, people struggling with mental illness and the way our society copes with this issue.

More than ten years ago I was part owner of and managed a coffee house in a developing community in Idaho. Our Downtown Business Association was working very hard to improve the downtown area that had fallen into decline in the 1970's. Many shop owners complained about homeless people panhandling and adding to the downtown's image problem. Sometimes, I complained with them. The city proposed to build some housing to assist and support homeless people with mental or drug-related problems. And, of course, people thought it was a great and noble idea, but no one wanted it in their back yard. I didn't want it in my backyard either.

Then I met a young man named a young man I'll refer to as Rich who had been in and out of psychiatric hospitals between stints living on the streets. He started having coffee at my coffee house regularly. At first, I was not excited about having "Crazy Rich" around the place. He was just another homeless guy that was "bad for business," as our proprietor neighbors would complain. And my business partner and I worried, people like Rich might smudge our ultra-hip-coffee-coolness. Some days Rich seemed like a normal person and some days it was apparent that he had mental stability problems. Living on the street or "sofa surfing" at friends' houses and being run in and out of institutions did not give him the stability to take care of his basic needs or to even take his medication regularly.

Then Rich got into the new housing project. He had a place to stay, a place that gave him the dignity of his personal freedom, but the stable environment to help him take care of himself. He showered. He laundered his clothes. He took his medication. He even got a job doing dishes at a nursing home and made some friends there with some of the elderly people. We started to like having Rich hang out at our coffee house. He read poetry and took part in special events.

Meanwhile, as positive changes were happening in Rich's life, my family had to face some unpleasant changes in my grandmother's health. She had broken her hip after living independently for many years and she needed the full time care of a nursing home. Though my grandmother had seven children and 48 grandchildren to visit her, she was still lonely and apprehensive about

the "home." But then she made a new friend there. A nice young man, who told her all about what the young people were doing, the kinds of music they liked, the kinds of coffee they drank. She called him Ricky and he called her Gracey. I heard about that "nice boy Ricky" from my grandmother for a couple years. But it wasn't until she was on her deathbed, after a series of strokes that I discovered that her special friend "Ricky" was in fact, Rich, the coffee regular who use to be known as "Crazy Rich" on the street. What a transformation a person can make with a little space and a little stability.

In the last weeks of my grandmother's life, it gave me great peace to know that Rich, her special friend "Ricky", was at the nursing home, looking in on her, when I could not. Without the stability of housing and the dignity of personal freedom, Rich may not have discovered his gift of kindness and friendship that he so lovingly shared with my grandmother. I am truly grateful that housing was available for Rich in my "back yard."

Ultimately, when we are faced with issues that might be in our own backyard, issues that may make us afraid or nervous, it is important to remember, that we may never know what opportunities we may have lost because we said "no". I encourage Alexandria to say "Yes!" "Yes!", to helping people in your backyard. "Yes!" to being helped by people in your backyard.

It may help ease some concerns to remind the community that the Safe Haven project and the people who plan to run it have a good record. The Safe Haven "Housing First" model has been proven to work to keep people housed and to move the chronic homeless into services and treatment. The CSB also has a strong record for safely helping people. The CSB has been operating residential programs in Alexandria for more than 25 years. The CSB currently operates 63 residential sites (173 beds) across the City. Since January 1998, when data collection was automated, the CSB has served a total of 706 consumers in its residential programs with no significant community incidents and a high degree of success. N. Patrick Street site seems like a particularly appropriate home for Safe Haven; since the 115 N. Patrick Street site has already had a long history of use by the CSB as a site to serve persons with severe mental illness and substance use disorders. It was used as a Clubhouse for more than 20 years and served 60+ people daily.

I hope Alexandria and her people will continue to support the Safe Haven project at 115 N. Patrick Street. It makes sense. It will make a difference. One never knows just how close to home the positive effects of such programs can be for each of us and our families until we truly feel them.

Thank you for your consideration,
Shellie McKeown

Reference SUP #2007-0002



McCabe Fangman
<mcfangs@yahoo.com>

02/13/2007 10:57 AM

To <erwagner@comcast.net>, <hsdunn@ipbtax.com>,
<jssjennings@aol.com>, <jlr@cpma.com>,
<komorosj@nasd.com>, <fossum@rand.org>,

cc

bcc

Subject Safe Haven

10

3-17-07

Alexandria Officials:

I am writing to urge your support for the proposed Safe Haven at 115 N. Patrick Street. This project has all the earmarks of a successful program. The model upon which Safe Haven is based has proven to work in moving chronic homeless individuals off the streets and into services and treatment. It would indeed be unfortunate for this city if the proposal is defeated. If so, we will feel the repercussions of the missed opportunity for years to come.

Thank you, in advance, for your support.

Karin Fangman

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http://advision.webevents.yahoo.com/mailbeta/features_spam.html

10

3-17-07



Karl P Albrecht
<babskar194@yahoo.com>
02/13/2007 02:37 PM

To Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov
cc
bcc
Subject safe haven #SUP 2007-0002

Please see attached letter

Get your own web address.



Have a HUGE year through Yahoo! Small Business. Safe Haven letter.doc

*205 East Alexandria Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301*

February 13, 2007

Alexandria City Council
Reference # SUP #2007-0002

Dear Members of the Alexandria City Council:

We are writing to express our **support** for the CSB's proposed Safe Haven Program at 115 North Patrick Street in Alexandria.

As homeowners and taxpayers in Alexandria, we fully support this program. We feel very strongly that as a city, Alexandria is unique in its efforts to provide services to a wide spectrum of citizens, from the very wealthy to those on public assistance. We applaud your efforts to successfully address the needs of such a diverse population.

The Safe Haven Program would provide *essential* services to a *small* group of homeless men and women. The establishment of this center in the proposed location would not have a detrimental impact on the residential neighborhood in which it is located; this property has already been used for a CSB program that served approximately sixty-five people with severe mental illnesses and/or substance abuse problems. The Community Services Board (CSB) has, we believe, more than adequately addressed the concerns raised by the residents of the North Patrick St. neighborhood. We have tried to put ourselves in the position of those neighbors, and after reading material on both sides of the issue, we feel that the arguments made in favor of using the 115 N. Patrick Street property as a Safe Haven are strong, and the benefits to both the immediate neighborhood and the City are substantial.

We urge you to reaffirm the City Council's June 2004 vote in favor of the Safe Haven by continuing to support this project.

Sincerely,

Barbara Munson Albrecht

Karl P. Albrecht

10

3-17-07



"Executive Director"
<aachexdir@aachhomeless.org>

02/13/2007 08:50 AM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, cc "Michael O'Rourke" <morourke@aachhomeless.org>

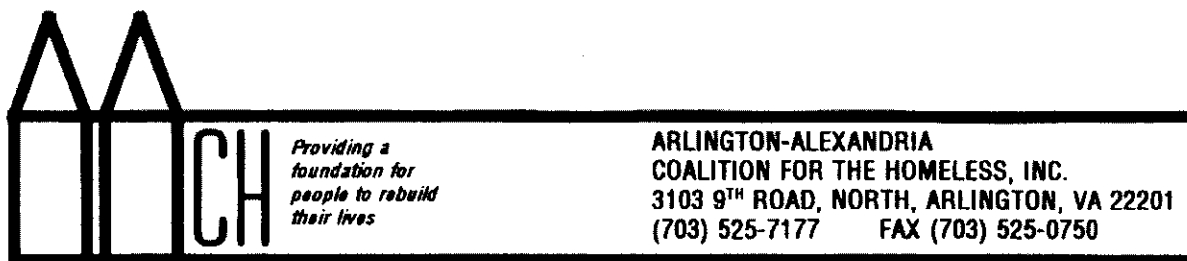
bcc

Subject A Letter in Support of Safe Haven

Michael O'Rourke
Executive Director, Arlington-Alexandria Coaliton for the Homeless
703-525-7177
Providing a foundation for rebuilding lives



Safe Haven Letter of Support '07.doc



February 13, 2007

Dear Members of the Alexandria City Council, Planning Commission and Staff,

I am writing in support of the proposed Safe Haven project that City Council has already approved on several occasions.

City Council has approved the application to HUD for funding, the use of City property for the Safe Haven site, CIP funds to renovate the site, annual funds to operate the facility and, last March, acceptance of HUD grant funds for the project.

The CSB has done extensive outreach to the neighbors and the community; and the Safe Haven "Housing First" model has been proven to work to keep people housed and to move the chronic homeless into services and treatment. Additionally, the 115 N. Patrick Street site has a long history of use by the CSB as a site to serve persons with severe mental illness and substance use disorders. The CSB has an outstanding record operating residential programs in Alexandria for more than 20 years, currently operating 63 residential sites (173 beds) across the City. CSB outreach staff knows the members of the target population for Alexandria's Safe Haven and no one who is assessed to present a danger will be admitted to the program.

I am asking that the Planning Commission and City Council support this important initiative to house the City's chronically homeless men and women as the SUP application comes before you.

Sincerely,

Michael J. O'Rourke, Executive Director

10

3-17-07



<lcroushorn@brethrenhousing.org>

02/13/2007 07:54 AM

Please respond to
<lcroushorn@brethrenhousing.org>

To <erwagner@comcast.net>, <hsdunn@ipbtax.com>, <jssjennings@aol.com>, <jlr@cpma.com>, <komorosj@nasd.com>, <fossum@rand.org>

cc

bcc

Subject Support for Safe Haven

Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council, and Planning Commission,

I am writing to add my support to the creation of a Safe Haven program at 115 N. Patrick Street to provide permanent supportive housing for 12 individuals. Permanent supportive housing facilities provide needed services to citizens which are not served by other existing programs. The cost of these services to the city is also reduced when compared to police, hospital, and emergency room resources these citizens may require if left unsheltered.

As the Executive Director of Brethren Housing Corporation in Manassas, I recognize that homelessness is a regional issue and understand the difficulty in providing homeless services and affordable housing in Northern Virginia. I applaud you for initiating the Safe Haven project and urge you to continue to support the project's completion.

Sincerely,

Luke Croushorn
Executive Director, Brethren Housing Corporation

Brethren Housing Corporation
10039 Nokesville Road Suite 101
Manassas VA 20110
703.330.9996 ph.
703.330.1286 fx.
www.brethrenhousing.org

10

3-17-07



"Deborah Schaffer"
<schaffer4@gmail.com>
02/12/2007 09:22 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
cc
bcc
Subject Safe Haven

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members,

I am writing this to show my support for the establishment of Safe Haven at 115 N Patrick Street. It is our responsibility to do what we can to help all Alexandrians have shelter no matter what their situations. And while I can appreciate the concern of the neighboring homeowners, their fears are unfounded. If security were an issue, then it would have been a much bigger one for all the years that the site was used for the CSB Clubhouse program.

Alexandria prides itself on being a city that cares about its citizens, especially those who might have greater needs than most. Making sure that Safe Haven opens would be a great source of that continued pride.

Sincerely,

Deborah Schaffer
494 Naylor Pl
Alexandria, VA 22304

10
3-17-07



"Bovey Office"
<boveyoffice@worldnet.att.net>

02/12/2007 09:09 PM

To <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>
cc <jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov>

bcc

Subject SafeHaven

February 12, 2007

Vice Mayor Andrew H. Macdonald
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Vice Mayor Macdonald:

I am writing to you about the Safe Haven program as an Alexandria citizen and a hard-nosed businessman, as well as one who has been much involved in how we deal with the mentally ill and how they affect all of us.

The people who are seeking to defeat the Safe Haven on Patrick Street fear and detest the chronic homeless people who will find safe haven there. The poor souls against whom the protest is mounted, who wander our streets with their sad bags, are an affront to tourists from most of America. These unfortunate people also are seen as a threat or an embarrassment by potential Old Town real estate buyers, who hesitate to pay a large price for a house on a sidewalk where they risk confronting one of those street people as they come and go, being reminded daily of the tragedy. The buyers go to McLean or Burke. The tourists go to Williamsburg.

Over time, the Safe Haven on Patrick Street will sharply reduce the hard core homeless from Alexandria's streets. In so doing, it will make a strong positive contribution to attracting tourists and new residents, and making the city a more attractive and desirable place in which to live. In sum, this activity of the Community Services Board promises an excellent return on investment to Alexandria.

Furthermore, you can be sure that one year after the Safe Haven is established, the neighbors will be no more aware of its operation than I and my neighbors are of the group home two blocks from my house on Dogwood, which is not at all. After all most of the protesters acquired their properties when the building in question had upwards of forty mentally ill folks entering and leaving it daily, as it did for many years. The Safe Haven will reduce the traffic intensity from that level.

In the interest of full disclosure, let me say that I was a one-term member of the CSB. I watched staff long enough to know of what I speak when I say that the Safe Haven will be tightly managed on a day-to-day basis by the CSB staff. The surroundings will be clean and quiet.

I am now a member of a volunteer organization, Friends of the Alexandria Community Health Center, which provides small grants to "consumers" for (often urgent) needs that fall outside the reach of federal, state, or city funding rules. From that perspective, I can assure you that you can be optimistic that Safe Haven will have a big impact on more or less permanently homeless Alexandrians. It is absolutely astounding how so little can go so far in restoring dignity to a person so that he or she wants to try again to be a productive member of society.

Please do not let this opportunity slip through our fingers because of the temporary fears of the ignorant.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Bovey

2603 Valley Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302



"Bovey Office"
<boveyoffice@worldnet.att.net>

02/12/2007 09:15 PM

To <councilmangaines@aol.com>
cc <jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov>

bcc

Subject Safe Haven

February 12, 2007

Councilman Ludwig P. Gaines
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Councilman Gaines:

I am writing to you about the Safe Haven program as an Alexandria citizen and a hard-nosed businessman, as well as one who has been much involved in how we deal with the mentally ill and how they affect all of us.

The people who are seeking to defeat the Safe Haven on Patrick Street fear and detest the chronic homeless people who will find safe haven there. The poor souls against whom the protest is mounted, who wander our streets with their sad bags, are an affront to tourists from most of America. These unfortunate people also are seen as a threat or an embarrassment by potential Old Town real estate buyers, who hesitate to pay a large price for a house on a sidewalk where they risk confronting one of those street people as they come and go, being reminded daily of the tragedy. The buyers go to McLean or Burke. The tourists go to Williamsburg.

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Sincerely,

Robert L. Bovey

2603 Valley Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302



"Bovey Office"
<boveyoffice@worldnet.att.net>

02/12/2007 09:17 PM

To <council@krupicka.com>
cc <jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov>

bcc

Subject Safe Haven

February 12, 2007

Councilman Rob Krupicka
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Councilman Krupicka:

I am writing to you about the Safe Haven program as an Alexandria citizen and a hard-nosed businessman, as well as one who has been much involved in how we deal with the mentally ill and how they affect all of us.

The people who are seeking to defeat the Safe Haven on Patrick Street fear and detest the chronic homeless people who will find safe haven there. The poor souls against whom the protest is mounted, who wander our streets with their sad bags, are an affront to tourists from most of America. These unfortunate people also are seen as a threat or an embarrassment by potential Old Town real estate buyers, who hesitate to pay a large price for a house on a sidewalk where they risk confronting one of those street people as they come and go, being reminded daily of the tragedy. The buyers go to McLean or Burke. The tourists go to Williamsburg.

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Sincerely,

Robert L. Bovey

2603 Valley Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302



"Bovey Office"
<boveyoffice@worldnet.att.net>

02/12/2007 09:19 PM

To <timothylovain@aol.com>

cc <jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov>

bcc

Subject Safe Haven

February 12, 2007

Councilman Rob Krupicka
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Councilman Krupicka:

I am writing to you about the Safe Haven program as an Alexandria citizen and a hard-nosed businessman, as well as one who has been much involved in how we deal with the mentally ill and how they affect all of us.

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Sincerely,

Robert L. Bovey

2603 Valley Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302



"Bovey Office"
<boveyoffice@worldnet.att.net>

02/12/2007 09:28 PM

To <paulcsmedberg@aol.com>
cc <jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov>
bcc

Subject Safe Haven

February 12, 2007

Councilman Paul C. Smedberg
Room 2300, City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Councilman Smedberg:

I am writing to you about the Safe Haven program as an Alexandria citizen and a hard-nosed businessman, as well as one who has been much involved in how we deal with the mentally ill and how they affect all of us.

The people who are seeking to defeat the Safe Haven on Patrick Street fear and detest the chronic homeless people who will find safe haven there. The poor souls against whom the protest is mounted, who wander our streets with their sad bags, are an affront to tourists from most of America. These unfortunate people also are seen as a threat or an embarrassment by potential Old Town real estate buyers, who hesitate to pay a large price for a house on a sidewalk where they risk confronting one of those street people as they come and go, being reminded daily of the tragedy. The buyers go to McLean or Burke. The tourists go to Williamsburg.

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Furthermore, you can be sure that one year after the Safe Haven is established, the neighbors will be no more aware of its operation than I and my neighbors are of the group home two blocks from my house on Dogwood, which is not at all. After all most of the protesters acquired their properties when the building in question had upwards of forty mentally ill folks entering and leaving it daily, as it did for many years. The Safe Haven will reduce the traffic intensity from that level.

In the interest of full disclosure, let me say that I was a one-term member of the CSB. I watched staff long enough to know of what I speak when I say that the Safe Haven will be tightly managed on a day-to-day basis by the CSB staff. The surroundings will be clean and quiet.

I am now a member of a volunteer organization, Friends of the Alexandria Community Health Center, which provides small grants to "consumers" for (often urgent) needs that fall outside the reach of federal, state, or city funding rules. From that perspective, I can assure you that you can be optimistic that Safe Haven will have a big impact on more or less permanently homeless Alexandrians. It is absolutely astounding how so little can go so far in restoring dignity to a person so that he or she wants to try again to be a productive member of society.

Please do not let this opportunity slip through our fingers because of the temporary fears of the ignorant.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Bovey

2603 Valley Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302

10

3-17-07



KEMedina
<medinake@yahoo.com>
02/12/2007 07:43 PM

To <erwagner@comcast.net>, <hsdunn@ipbtax.com>,
<jssjennings@aol.com>, <jlr@cpma.com>,
<komorosj@nasd.com>, <fossum@rand.org>,
cc

bcc

Subject Safe Haven support

Dear Mayor Euille, City Council members, and Planning & Zoning staff;

As an Alexandria resident (3810 Dominion Mill Drive, 22304) and staunch supporter of most housing issues, I want to provide my continued support of the Safe Haven unit at 115 N. Patrick Street.

It is many people's goal to end homelessness in Alexandria within 10 years, which means we need to provide housing options for all of our neighbors. Safe Haven is one small step toward this goal.

This issue has received much attention since its inception and I'm sure it hasn't been an easy road to travel for any of you. I trust you will all make the right decision for the residents of the City of Alexandria and vote to support the development of Safe Haven as proposed.

Sincerely,
Katharine Medina

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10
3-17-07



"Jennifer Slark"
<Jslark@arlingtonva.us>
02/12/2007 03:55 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>
cc <erwagner@comcast.net>, <hsdunn@ipbtax.com>,
<jssjennings@aol.com>, <jlr@cpma.com>,
<komorosj@nasd.com>, <fossum@rand.org>,
bcc

Subject Arlington CSB support letter for the Safe Haven program

Mayor William Euille,

Please find attached a letter of support from the Arlington Community Services Board for the Alexandria CSB's (CSB) Safe Haven Program.

Thank you,

Jennifer

Jennifer Slark
Management Specialist for the Community Services Board and Behavioral
Healthcare Division
1725 N. George Mason Drive
Arlington, VA 22201
703-228-4871



ACCSB Support for Safe Haven 2-13-07.doc



THE ARLINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
1725 N. George Mason Drive, Arlington, VA 22205
TEL 703-228-4871 FAX 703-228-5234 www.arlingtonva.us/csb

Board Members

Patrick Hope, Chairman
Jane Adams
Dean Bonney
Scott Brannon
Danielle Denenny
Kathleen L. Donovan
Anne Marie C. Hermann
Kate D. Malliarakis
Jenette O'Keefe
James Phippard
Major Mike Pinson
Carol Skelly
Jocelyn Ann Starzak
Kiersten Coon Todt
Naomi Verdugo
John Youngs
Sarah M. Zevin
Executive Director
Cynthia Kemp

February 12, 2007

Deleted: Community Services Board

Mayor William D. Euille
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: Support for the Alexandria Safe Haven Program

Dear Mayor Euille:

The Arlington County Community Services Board (ACCSB) is, once again, writing in strong support of the Alexandria Community Services Board's (CSB) proposal for the Safe Haven Program located at 115 N. Patrick Street. We urge the Alexandria Planning Commission and the Alexandria City Council to approve this important program.

As you know, the Safe Haven program will provide much-needed permanent supportive housing to twelve (12) homeless men and women who are unable to reside in Alexandria's existing homeless shelter due to the severity of their mental illness and/or abuse of substances. Studies across the country have shown that this kind of community housing model – also known as “housing first” – has proven effective toward stability and recovery. While we are aware through media reports that a minority of local residents are in opposition to the Safe Haven program, we believe that over time these same residents will come to realize their fears and apprehensions, while understandable, were unjustified. We are extremely confident in the Alexandria CSB's ability to screen and monitor admission to only those residents capable of living in a community setting.

One of the most critical issues facing the entire Northern Virginia region is the lack of permanent supportive housing for individuals with mental disabilities. As part of a nationwide effort to move more individuals back into the community, Arlington County continues to work toward a goal to create over 400 supportive housing units for individuals with disabilities. While the Arlington plan is structured to meet this goal in a variety of different ways, the proposed Safe Haven Program is one proven model to deliver mental health care services in a setting that is conducive to recovery.

In conclusion, the ACCSB is in strong support of the Alexandria CSB's proposal to create the Safe Haven Program at 115 N. Patrick Street, and we urge the Alexandria Planning Commission and the Alexandria City Council to expedite approval of this

vital community program. Please feel free to contact me at (703) 528-8956 or the ACCSB's Executive Director, Cynthia Kemp, at (703) 228-4843 if we can provide additional information regarding our support. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Patrick Hope
Chairman

cc: Vice Mayor Andrew McDonald
Councilman Ludwig Gaines
Councilman Rob Krupicka
Councilman Timothy Lovain
Councilman Paul Smedberg
Councilwoman Del Pepper
City Manager James Hartmann
City Clerk Jackie Henderson
Alexandria Planning Commission

10
3-17-07



bill casey
<b13909@comcast.net>
02/12/2007 10:32 AM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, <paulcsmedberg@aol.com>
cc <jim.hartmann@alexandriava.gov>, <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

bcc

Subject SUP #2007-0002

Dear Members of the Alexandria City Council,

Proponents of the proposed Safe Haven facility on Patrick Street have made their arguments, and the opponents have done the same. For me, the evidence is overwhelmingly in favor of the proponents. No more evidence is needed, simply a decision in favor of the Safe Haven project.

To the degree that the needs of opponents can be met through some other services to allay their concerns or address their fears, I am certainly in favor of it. However, their concerns and fears are a secondary problem and should not stall the approval of the Safe Haven project any longer. The Community Services Board, both in its past history of serving the needs of mentally ill homeless and also in its proposal for this latest project, prevails on the merits of the debate. It is time now for City officials to meet the needs of the underserved and suffering neighbors on our streets by approving the Safe Haven proposal and ending tactics to delay what is right for Alexandria.

Sincerely,

William R. Casey
5529 Gary Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22311-1501
703.568.3438
b13909@comcast.net

10
3-17-07



"helenlewis"
<helenlewis@verizon.net>

02/12/2007 10:15 AM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, cc <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

bcc

Subject Alexandria needs a Safe Haven

Dear Mayor Euille, City Manager Hartmann and Council Members:

I am writing to support the Community Service Board's plan to develop a Safe Haven facility at 115 N. Patrick Street. The facility will be a permanent residence for 12 mentally disabled adults who are currently homeless and living on Alexandria's streets—all of us have met some of them and some we've gotten to know quite well. They are peaceable but vulnerable—the most vulnerable of our homeless residents, most in need of safe, permanent housing but least able to access it. They refuse or don't qualify for shelters, living at risk of assault or hypothermia on the streets.

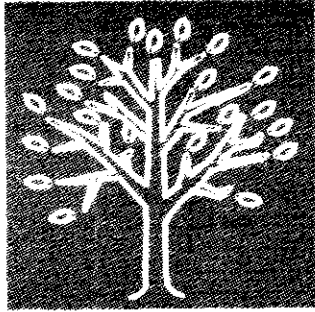
To meet their special needs, the Safe Haven model project has been developed and established in several cities, including well-accepted facilities in Arlington and Falls Church. These well-supervised facilities blend into the neighborhood and give residents long-term security and support, enabling them to stabilize and eventually re-enter mainstream society.

Alexandria needs such facilities and currently has none. This project offers a good start, and at an especially suitable location—close to shops and transportation, in a neighborhood with some mixed commercial uses and multifamily zoning. Based on the CSB's long record of managing safe, neighborhood-friendly facilities, I am certain that these neighbors' opposition will fade quickly once the facility is in operation, as has happened with every CSB project approved in past years.

You have all taken leadership in supporting Alexandria's efforts to provide safe, affordable housing for all its residents. This project serves the most needy of these residents with safety and dignity. I hope you will join in supporting this project and urge that you do so. Thank you for your commitment and your care for all of Alexandria's residents.

Sincerely,

Helen Lewis
703-780-7859



ALIVE!

Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically

**Food
Furniture
Housewares
Last Saturday Food
ALIVE! House Shelter
Child Development Center
Family Emergency Program**

*Agudas Achim Congregation
Alexandria Church of the Nazarene
Alfred Street Baptist Church
Beth El Hebrew Congregation
Beverly Hills Community United
Methodist Church
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community
Christ Episcopal Church
Church of St. Clement
Church of the Resurrection
Community Praise Center
Del Ray United Methodist Church
Ebenezer Baptist Church
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Fairlington Presbyterian Church
Fairlington United Methodist Church
Fair-Park Baptist Church
First Agape Church
First Baptist Church of Alexandria
First Christian Church
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Grace Episcopal Church
Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
Meade Memorial Episcopal Church
Old Presbyterian Meeting House
Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church
Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is
St. Andrews United Methodist Church
St. James United Methodist Church
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
St. Mary's Catholic Church
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
St. Rita's Catholic Church
Third Baptist Church
Trinity United Methodist Church
Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington
Victory Temple
Washington Street United Methodist Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Zion Baptist Church*

**A United Way/Combined
Federal Campaign
Agency # 8352**

2723 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302
alivetoo@aol.com www.alive-inc.org

10
3-17-07
Phone: 703-837-9300
Fax: 703-837-9399

February 8, 2007

Mayor William D. Euille
Members of City Council
Members of the Planning Commission
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Mayor Euille, City Council and Planning Commission:

Re: Reference SUP #2007-0002

At the February 6, meeting of the ALIVE! Board of Directors, a motion was made, voted on and passed in support of the Safe Haven residential facility at 115 North Patrick Street.

We at ALIVE! are familiar with many of the residents who will be served, and helped, by Safe Haven. They are individuals who already live on the streets of Alexandria, some grew up here and went to schools here. Some are Vietnam veterans. Because of the nature of ALIVE!'s service to the needy of the City, we have already served many of these Safe Haven clients and we know, from experience, that they need the assistance that will be provided by Safe Haven. Ignoring their problems will not make them go away.

The "Club House" facility has been owned by the City and used, successfully, as a day-center for the mentally ill for more than 20 years. Now we face a critical need for a Safe Haven. Other cities throughout the country have proved that the "Housing First" model for the chronic homeless population can be successful. The project has been openly discussed for several years and the City Council has already approved the project in public session. We trust that this final step toward approval will proceed without delay.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor, all of the Members of City Council and members of the Planning Commission, for the service you provide to our great City.

Sincerely,

Kenneth D. Naser
Executive Director



<Cethompso@aol.com>
02/07/2007 03:03 PM

To <Alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<Councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@Krupicka.com>,
<Timothylovain@aol.com>, <DELPepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject Safe Haven Support

10

3-17-07

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of Council,

I am writing in support of the proposed CSB Safe Haven to be located at 115 N Patrick Street. With 80 - 90 chronically homeless persons living on our streets, the opening of a facility with permanent supportive housing offers a critical opportunity to preserve the human dignity of our poorest residents. Like our neighboring communities, it is time for us to respond to HUD's call for "Housing First" for the chronically homeless as the first step to recovery and to becoming productive residents of our City.

Alexandria's Safe Haven is modeled after nationally-recognized facilities that have been operating successfully throughout the country. Both professionals and volunteers have been trying to provide services to the chronically homeless population for years. Offers of food, blankets, a warm bed on a cold night, clothing or counseling haven't been the answer. However, research has shown that a nurturing home-like environment has helped many individuals develop the trust necessary to accept the treatment that will lead to recovery. Low demands with fewer rules and regulations is a primary reason that people are not afraid to come "inside" and eventually accept the challenges of a new beginning.

CSB operates 63 successful residential facilities throughout the community. Locations for these facilities have been carefully selected by the CSB professional staff. The N Patrick Street building was selected because it is considered an ideal site for Safe Haven for several reasons: it borders the two areas of the lowest density of special needs housing; it can offer a place to call home to 12 people who currently live on the streets; it is a familiar neighborhood to many of the potential residents; and it is close to transportation, social services and CSB services as well as stores banks and religious congregations, all of which will be part of learning the skills necessary to functioning in the community.

As one of the co-founders of David's place and its first volunteer, I remember that it was always hard to see people leave in the afternoon to face the uncertainty of life on the streets. When the group returned in the morning, we were always thankful that they had made it through another night, another weekend. For people who live in the "shadows" of our society, the provision of permanent housing means there is hope for the future. The dignity of having a home is the first step to empowering individuals on the difficult road to a better life.

On behalf of those who have no voice, I urge your support for the Safe Haven for the neediest members of our community.

Sincerely,
Catherine C. Thompson
3613 Oval Drive
Alexandria



"Cate Alexander"
<cbalexander3@comcast.net>
02/03/2007 12:40 PM

To <erwagner@comcast.net>, <hsdunn@ipbtax.com>,
<jssjennings@aol.com>, <jlr@cpma.com>,
<komorosj@nasd.com>, <fossum@rand.org>,
cc

bcc

Subject Support for Safe Haven Facility

10

3-17-07

Dear Mayor, City Council and Planning Commission Members,

As a resident of the City of Alexandria, I want to ask for your support in the effort to renovate the structure at 115 Patrick Street for use as a permanent residence for homeless persons. It is clear to me that this proposal has come after careful consideration of those living near the facility and of the needs of this community to do what it can on behalf of those less fortunate. This extraordinary effort toward responsible planning and toward doing something about the homeless in our community must be commended. I urge you to do what you can to move this project forward and provide much needed housing for the homeless among us.

Sincerely,
Catherine Alexander Brennan
3900 Gresham Pl.
Alexandria, VA 22305
703-837-0609

10

3-17-07



<bjsocialworker@aol.com>

02/04/2007 02:18 AM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject 115 S Patrick Street and Safe Haven

I am writing in support of the planned supportive housing for the homeless that many in the Alexandria community are trying to derail. I can not believe that our neighbors would want to see people wandering their community homeless when there could be an alternative that could aid these people in living in reliable housing. When I worked as a Case Manager at the Whitman-Walker Clinic in Arlington I witnessed first hand the difficulties that the homeless face while attempting to get their lives together. Everything is much more difficult when you do not have a place to call home which provides a needed stability in one's life. It enables a person to focus on their health needs, can provide a base from which to recover from drug and alcohol dependence. Safe Haven is an organization that not only helps to provide housing to our local community, it also provides the guidance need by those who have been living outside on the streets to re-enter our community as successful persons that contribute back to the community at large. I believe that Safe Haven has followed all the rules in the process of bringing needed services to people in securing authorization for the use of the property at 115 S. Patrick Street.

Brian Jennings, LCSW
Annandale, VA
703-309-5080

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"Marsha Rhea"
<marsharhea@comcast.net>

02/04/2007 04:57 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject Letter in Support of Safe Haven

10
3-17-07

To the Members of the City Council,

The only quality of life I want to see Alexandria committed to creating is a quality of life that extends hospitality not just to the affluent but also to people whose lives are complicated by mental illness, homelessness and poverty. I am writing to express my support for Safe Haven on Patrick Street. The Community Services Board has recommended this facility in its plans to address homelessness and the City Council has endorsed this plan and this facility.

I feel the very few neighbors who have challenged this decision in court do not represent me or the city I am proud to call home. If what we now need is a special use permit to make Safe Haven a reality in our community, then let's cross the "Ts" and dot the "Is" as fast as we can in this upcoming Planning Commission meeting and City Council action.

When I wrote a letter of support last year on this same matter, I also spoke frankly about this NIMBY behavior. My home is some number of blocks removed from the Safe Haven site, although I do walk many places in our city and share the streets with the homeless Safe Haven intends to serve. How would I feel if this facility were next door to my home? I would have asked exactly the kinds of questions that Safe Haven has been asked and has answered to my complete satisfaction. Safe Haven understands what it must do to be a good neighbor to the community while being a good servant to its clientele.

Behind most NIMBY behavior is more greed than fear. People want to make a killing without ever stopping to think that they are killing the soul of our community for a few tens of thousands. I want to live in a place that doesn't get confused about what it takes to be a livable community. Alexandria gets the choices right most days and that is why I chose to move into the city three years ago.

Approving Safe Haven is another chance to send a clear message that Alexandria understands that quality of life can only be achieved if it is for all our residents. We have to act quickly with all the care and speed we would exercise if these homeless Alexandria residents were our own family members. Indeed, we are all children of God and these homeless residents are no less deserving of a safe home and caring neighbors than those of us fortunate enough to buy our places in this community we want to be our home.

Marsha Rhea
1214 W. Abingdon Dr.
Alexandria, VA 22314

10

3-17-07



<bhchurch3@verizon.net>
02/06/2007 05:07 PM

To <jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov>
cc
bcc

Subject Re: My support for Safe Haven

Dear City Clerk Jackie Henderson,

I am writing to share my support for the creation of Safe Haven at 115 N. Patrick Street (Reference SUP #2007-0002). I have been the pastor of Beverley Hills United Methodist Church at 3512 Old Dominion Blvd., Alexandria for more than twelve years. As a pastor, many who are homeless come to the church to receive help and we are able to provide some necessities such as food or clothing. Sometimes we have been able to get persons into shelters, though often this is not possible as shelters are already full. What we are able to provide is never enough to truly help these persons. On numerous occasions I am able to spend time talking with them and a number of the homeless have shared with me their struggle with mental illness. Never have I felt threatened or concerned for my well-being while sharing with these individuals. These persons need ongoing support, medical attention and compassionate care. They do not need to be living on our streets. I believe Safe Haven has a proven record of making a difference in the lives of persons with mental illness or addictions. It is the right and morally ethical decision to provide permanent supportive housing for these members of our society. Through proper support persons have the chance of moving to independent living. Please support the creation of Safe Haven at 115 N. Patrick Street. Sincerely, Rev. Sara L. Manner

10
3-17-07



"Gerard Benson"
<jns-lasalle@comcast.net>
02/10/2007 11:26 AM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
cc
bcc
Subject Safe Haven

4535 LaSalle Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22304
February, 10, 2007

I am writing in support of the Safe Haven Program at 115 N. Patrick Street.

I have been a resident of Alexandria for over twenty years. I have lived in three neighborhoods in the city. Each neighborhood has had housing for persons with special needs. During my time in each neighborhood, there have been no negative experiences related to these residences.

In the case of 115 N. Patrick Street, the facility has a long history of serving persons with severe mental illness and substance abuse disorders. In order to institute the Safe Haven Program, the building would transition to a residence for 12 persons who would be under supervised care 24/7. It appears that the Community Services Board has done its homework in terms of determining the suitable neighborhood for Safe Haven and in terms of notifying the neighbors of the plans for 115 N. Patrick Street.

I hope for the best outcome for all who are concerned with the Safe Haven Project.

Sincerely,

Ann D. Benson

10
3-17-07



"Don Beyer"
<donbeyer@gmail.com>
02/10/2007 03:30 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, cc bcc

Subject Letter of support for Safe Haven

Dear Mr. Mayor and Council Members,

I write to offer my support for the Safe Haven home at 115 North Patrick Street.

I am the father of a 31-year-old son who was stricken 12 years ago with schizoaffective disorder. Over these years, we have had many medical adventures, and he has made steady progress.

A big piece of his progress has been the ability to live in supported housing, in neighborhoods and communities, surrounded by families who welcomed and accepted Don and his living mates.

My son lived in the supported living continuum assembled by the Shepard Pratt Hospital, in Towson, Maryland. We looked everywhere in Metropolitan Washington -- especially in Alexandria -- for a good living situation for my son, and found nothing. In Towson, he lived in a group home (Burke House) for almost a year, where he was happy, secure, and made many friends. I visited every weekend for that year, and I always seemed welcomed by the neighbors.

One fascinating thing I have learned in these last eleven years is that many mental illnesses "burn out" as the person ages. That is, they get better, for reasons no one can explain. But too often, by the time the symptoms have abated, the person has become so dysfunctional (from homelessness, no health care, no family support, etc.) that the remission of symptoms is wasted. The long term prevention investment strategy is to work as hard as possible to keep the afflicted person as socialized as possible -- to keep him or her engaged in the community, in managing his life, shopping, exercising, seeing the doctors, staying active and alive. Then, when he gets better, a full re-entry to society is possible.

This is exactly what happens in a home like Safe Haven. Safe Haven is a critical and necessary investment in making Alexandria a better community.

I know the neighbors worry -- this is completely natural. I was once terrified of stepping foot on the psychiatric floor of any hospital, afraid "it" might be contagious. Instead, I have learned that people with mental illnesses are still just people, with intelligence, humor, compassion, a sense of justice, and deserving of all the dignity we can muster. My strong belief is that these same neighbors, a year or two from now, will be the best advocates for Safe Haven.

We are a tremendously wealthy community in so many respects. Creating the Safe Haven home will be just a small way to make ourselves wealthier in caring for the least advantaged among us. This is the true measure of our worth as a community and city.

Please give Safe Haven your excellent support.

Best wishes,
Don Beyer

P.S. My son now lives independently, with his dog from the Alexandria Animal Shelter, and his Subaru from Subaru of Alexandria, in an apartment in Falls Church. Thank God for the Burke House of Towson, Maryland.



Website - Safe Haven.doc

Safe Haven Website:

http://www.alexandriava.gov/mhmrsa/safe_haven.html

Safe Haven

1. General Information
 - a. [FAQ's](#)
 - b. [Safe Haven Information Summary](#)
2. Background
 - a. [Approval of HUD Grant Submission](#)
 - b. [Council Acceptance of HUD Grant](#)
 - c. [Ten Year Plan](#)
 - d. [City's Strategic Plan](#)
 - e. [2004 HUD Grant Application Exhibit 1: Continuum of Care](#)
 - f. [2004 HUD Grant Application Exhibit 2: Safe Haven](#)
3. Special Needs Housing
 - a. [Housing Policy](#)
 - b. [Property Values](#)
 - c. [CSB and Other Special Needs Residential Sites](#)
4. BAR Information
 - a. [Demolition - Patrick Street 9-21-05](#)
 - b. [Additions - Patrick Street 9-21-05](#)
 - c. [Additions - Patrick Street 10-05-05](#)
 - d. [Demolition - Patrick Street 10-05-05](#)
 - e. [Filing Letter 11-03-05](#)
 - f. [Notice of Approval 12-09-05](#)
5. Communication with the Public
 - a. [Notes of Recent Community Meetings](#)
 - b. [Questions from Neighborhood Parents](#)
 - c. [Summary of January 30, 2007 Community meeting.](#)
6. Related Links
 - a. [HUD](#)
 - b. [End Homelessness](#)
 - c. [NRCHMI](#)
 - d. [Fair Housing Act](#)
 - e. [Ward Family Foundation](#)



"Phillip Bradbury"
<phillip.bradbury@worldnet.att.net>

02/10/2007 04:18 PM

Please respond to
<phillip.bradbury@worldnet.att.net>

To "Councilman Paul Smedberg" <paulcsmedberg@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, "Councilman Ludwig P Gaines" cc <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>, "City Manager" <jim.hartmann@alexandriava.gov> bcc Subject Support for Safe Haven

- >
- > Dear Mayor Euile and Members of Ciy Council,
- >
- > I would like to urge the Council' s continued support of the
- > plans to establish a Safe Haven for the homeless of Alexandria at 115
- North
- > Patrick Street, during the forthcoming SUP process. While the concerns of
- close neighbors to
- the building are understandable, the Safe Haven "Housing First" model has
- been proven to work
- to keep people housed and to move the chronic homeless into services and
- treatment.
- > The Safe Haven is a concept whose time has come. In providing such a
- > facility, our City is only doing what many other cities are doing across
- the
- > Nation, in response to HUD' s initiative in acquiring the funding for
- > grants. For too long, these unfortunate people, who have no home, have
- been
- > neglected.

The CSB Staff has engaged in many interactions with the homeless in Alexandria, and knows most or all of them personally The staff is also well versed in management of risk in selection of candidates for residence in Safe Haven. This facility was occupied, for over 20 years, as a Club House for the mentally disabled. During that time, well over 100 clients were eligible to be part of this Clubhouse. For many years, daily attendance was consistently over eighty clients, of whom many came from other parts of the City into the Patrick Street neighborhood. There were very few problems caused in the neighborhood due to their presence, and such problems as did arise were in the nature of irritants rather than threats to safety.

The attendance at the Safe Haven will be about 12 as compared with over 80, and only low-risk candidates will be selected. They will come to regard this area as their home rather than somewhere they get bussed to, and are not know. Most important is the fact that these people are currently in the neighborhood, roaming the streets without supervision. Safe Haven will take some of these people off the street, since they will now have a home. Almost intuitively, it can be seen that disturbance to the neighborhood from housing 12 people, who are currently on the street has got to be less than that from 80 to 120 people using the Clubhouse on a daily basis.

Our City has long supported the wonderful work done by its Mental Health staff for our most needy citizens. Please continue that support and at the

appropriate time, vote in favor of this important program.

>

> Sincerely,

>

> **Phill Bradbury**

10
3-17-07



"Phillip Bradbury"
<phillip.bradbury@worldnet.att.net>

02/10/2007 03:32 PM

Please respond to
<phillip.bradbury@worldnet.att.net>

To <Kendra.jacobs@alexandriava.gov>, <fossum@rand.org>, <komorosj@nasd.com>, <jlr@cpma.com>, <jssjennings@aol.com>, <hsdunn@ipbtax.com>, cc "City Manager" <jim.hartmann@alexandriava.gov>, <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov> bcc Subject Support for Save Haven - March 6 Public Hearing

>
> Dear Chairman Wagner and Members of the Planning Commission,
>
> I would like to add my name to the list of those who are in support of the
> plans to establish a Safe Haven for the homeless of Alexandria at 115
North
> Patrick Street. While the concerns of close neighbors to the building are
understandable,
> the Safe Haven "Housing First" model has been proven to work to keep
people housed and to move
the chronic homeless into services and treatment.

> The Safe Haven is a concept whose time has come. In providing such a
> facility, our City is only doing what many other cities are doing across
the
> Nation, in response to HUD' s initiative in acquiring the funding for
> grants. For too long, these unfortunate people, who have no home, have
been
> neglected.
>
> This program was initiated by the CSB during my chairmanship, so that I
> have seen it develop and know how much effort has been devoted to the
> program as the process evolved. Creation of a Safe Haven was then, has
been
> since ,and is now, inspired by the leadership of Mary Riley, the present
CSB
> Chair. For several years, she has dedicated herself tirelessly to this
task,
> and in so doing has been an example to us all. I support the program, and
> feel that our City owes a debt to Mary Riley for a fine example of caring
> citizenship,
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Phill Bradbury

10

3-17-07



"chezbrigid@juno.com"
<chezbrigid@juno.com>
02/10/2007 07:39 PM

To <delpepper@aol.com>, <paulcsmedberg@aol.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>,
<councilmangaines@aol.com>, <mcdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
cc <maryriley@comcast.net>

bcc

Subject safeharbor

Dear Alexandria Leadership: Please support the application for Alexandria's Safe Haven residence in Old Town. I'm a fairly new resident of Alexandria, but I lived for 28 years in south Arlington, ten years of which were spent three blocks from housing for mentally disabled adults similar to the Safe Haven proposed residence. Never in those ten years was there a problem with those residents (while there was a big problem with the homeless in the nearby Four Mile Run area) and property values actually increased because of the tidiness and quiet of this group home. It's now 20 degrees outside. Please help these people. Brigid Davis, 1560 Mt. Eagle Place, Alexandria 22302

10
3-17-07



Gregory Vogt
<gvogt@vogtlawfirm.com>
02/11/2007 04:40 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, cc <jim.hartmann@alexandriava.gov>, <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

bcc

Subject Approve Safe Haven

Dear City Council Members:

I am sending this message to urge the City Council to approve the special use permit for the Safe Haven facility for the homeless at 115 N. Patrick Street after action by the city planning commission. I was very concerned when the court made a decision based on a legal technicality that required the city to again consider the Safe Haven project. Regardless of this action, however, please do not be deterred in your decision. Despite the fact that a small minority of Alexandrians oppose this project because they do not feel it in their economic self interests, this project is needed by the Alexandria community.

As you are aware, the City Council in 2004 already approved the Safe Haven Project at the North Patrick location as part of the City's Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. This council approval was a landmark humanitarian commitment that acknowledges all Alexandria citizens have the basic right to shelter. What is more, it represented a hard-headed, right-thinking decision to do something effective to help the homeless help themselves by enabling a proven program that can help the chronically homeless overcome the real personal problems that put them on the street in the first place. Safe Haven is patterned after a proven method that keeps the homeless housed and works toward real solutions to the homeless' problems. It is frustrating that, at this very late date, the issue has to again be subject of public debate that distorts the issues.

I am one of the coordinators of the hypothermia overflow shelter at St. Clements Episcopal, which is run in conjunction with Carpenter Shelter's Hypothermia program. In the past, I have been Coordinator of the Blessed Sacrament Hypothermia Overflow shelter. I am also a volunteer at Carpenter's Hypothermia program. During my efforts supporting the homeless of Alexandria, I have worked with a number of the City's chronically homeless. As you know, chronic homelessness has a number of causes that are difficult to combat, including drug and alcohol abuse and mental illness. There is a strong need for us to do more as a society to help these chronically homeless men and women get back on their feet to be able to live productive lives on their own.

One thing I do know: these men could easily be our fathers, brothers or sons. Many are trying to be or stay employed. Several have had careers that have since gone sour. They are children of God that deserve and need our compassion and help. And there are a handful of women in this category as well.

They are not thriving now. They live in danger every day from violence, hunger and exposure. It may be easier to tell ourselves that they don't

deserve help because their plight is of their own making. But where would anyone of us be if we had not been helped along the way or steered down the right path. We can't give up just because these men have not enjoyed our good fortune.

Right now there is not enough being done to provide a helping hand to the chronically homeless of our City. The City Council's 2004 decision to change this by establishing a Safe Haven program provides real hope that these folks can live in their own, safe homes, rather than on the streets by allowing for an intensive treatment opportunity that could put them back on track. The CSB has had years of experience in helping this population in Alexandria and have had a proven track record of avoiding significant problems. And certainly there is nothing like the horrors that some have raised about Safe Haven.

The City Council should reject the efforts of a small group of Old Town residents that could derail this effort. Although as a West End resident I am sympathetic to legitimate concerns that could detract from the value of an Alexandrian's home, the objections that continue to be raised are not based in fact, but are borne out of ignorance about Alexandria's homeless and unfounded prejudice against them. Everywhere in the city we live next door to half-way houses and treatment programs with minimal property and safety issues. Every part of the city, including Old Towners, must do its fair share to support the forward-looking leadership of the Council to provide effective programs for Alexandria's needy.

It seems that the objections are a real stretch. That same North Patrick location has been used by the Community Services Board as a clubhouse for many years. If anything, the Safe Haven project will involve a more stable population with much less external activity than the previous use. And with a warm, safe place to go, the new residents will be off the streets and inside a building.

I am also concerned that some are proposing onerous conditions on the project that could undermine the proven therapeutic techniques of the program. Safe Haven cannot be a prison, it has to be a warm, loving environment that works a person into everyday living. These men aren't being jailed for a crime, they are human beings that we need to nurture. Don't get me wrong, if I thought prison was the answer I'd advocate it. But it's not. Please don't be tempted to place unreasonable conditions on the facility.

However, I do know that each resident will be well screened, and that no dangerous individuals will be permitted to enter the Safe Haven project. The aim of the program is to encourage residents to be drug and alcohol free. I daresay that these residents may have more controls on them than do the residents surrounding the Safe Haven home. And I would think if anything all the Old Town neighbors would find this situation a great improvement over the existing one where there is no one to look after the homeless in their neighborhood. In the end, I'm sure that the neighbors will find that after a few months, their fears will prove untrue.

I know that ignorance breeds fear and suspicion. In my long experience, every one of Alexandria's homeless that I have met have been friendly, respectful people. They may have lost their way, but they do not want to

hurt anyone. In fact, giving these men a semi-permanent home in a safe environment where they can focus on overcoming addiction or mental illness, in a neighborhood that is normal and friendly, is exactly the kind of community that all Alexandrians should want to foster. I am sure with some education, some open-mindedness, and with a strong dose of brotherly love, Old Towners will come to realize that Safe Haven is a wonderful thing for the community, not a detractor.

I urge you to approve the special use permit after action of the city planning commission. Thanks a lot for your consideration.

Greg Vogt

Gregory J. Vogt
3920 Colonel Ellis Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22304
703.461.6776 (landline)
703.887.0767 (cell)

10

3-17-07



"Nick Giordano"
<giordann@nppc.org>
02/11/2007 08:48 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject FW:

Dear Mayor Euille:

I am writing in support of the safe haven project on Patrick Street. My family has been volunteering the past couple of years at Max's Place, a safe haven in Fairfax County. Based on our experience at Max's Place, we believe that the safe haven project on Patrick Street will provide an effective means of dealing with chronic homelessness and will not present a threat to the surrounding residents.

One Friday evening per month my wife, Anne, and I and our three children, Natalie (age 16), Nate (age 13), and David (age 11) bring a meal to the residents of Max's Place. We eat with the residents and visit with them. We typically stay one and one-half hours. We have been volunteering for about 2 years at Max's.

We look forward to our visits with the residents at Max's Place and enjoy their company. We ask them about their lives, both past and present, and we share our lives with them. We talk about current events. And we always talk some sports.

Our family never has felt unsafe or uncomfortable around the residents at Max's. We have never seen any of the residents at Max's engage in illegal or otherwise unacceptable behavior. Max's provides a safe and stable environment for the residents. There has been no turnover of residents at Max's since we have been volunteering. To the best of our knowledge, the residents of Max's have not created problems for their neighbors.

We know that the residents of Max's are safer and happier living at Max's than living on the streets. We urge you to approve the Patrick Street safe haven.

Sincerely,

Nicholas D. Giordano
5625 North 34 Street
Arlington, Virginia 22207



Paul Schoen
<peschoen@yahoo.com>
02/11/2007 10:45 PM

To <erwagner@comcast.net>, <hsdunn@ipbtax.com>, <jssjennings@aol.com>, <jlr@cpma.com>, <komorosj@nasd.com>, <fossum@rand.org>,
cc
bcc
Subject In support of Safe Haven

10

3-17-07

I am writing in support of the Safe Haven Project, to provide a facility to house several mentally ill people in Alexandria. Getting homeless people off the streets and into care will benefit the City and the neighborhood by allowing improved services and supervision for people otherwise at risk, especially in wintertime.

I realize that there has been some worry expressed about the project's impact on its neighbors, but I think the answers provided by the CSB are reasonable and convincing. Since the facility has been used for decades in providing day care for similar people, we are not venturing into the unknown here, but taking a logical next step.

And aside from this being good citizenship to be taking care of some the least privileged people in our midst, and good public healthcare to provide for the sick and the homeless, it is simply a decent thing to do for our fellow human beings who are helpless to care for themselves.

Reference SUP #2007-0002

Yours,
Paul Schoen
5006 Taney Ave.
Alex. VA 22304

Expecting? Get great news right away with email Auto-Check.
Try the Yahoo! Mail Beta.
http://advision.webevents.yahoo.com/mailbeta/newmail_tools.html

10
3-17-07



"Hall-Bullock, Dofreda"
<dhall-bullock@nvfs.org>

02/12/2007 08:57 AM

To <erwagner@comcast.net>, <hsdunn@ipbtax.com>,
<jssjennings@aol.com>, <jlr@cpma.com>,
<komorosj@nasd.com>, <fossum@rand.org>,

cc

bcc

Subject Safe Haven Supporter

February 12, 2007

The Honorable Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing to urge your support for the Community Service Board (CSB) proposal for the establishment of the Safe Haven program. I cannot overemphasize the desperate need for housing and services for the mentally ill and homeless in the Alexandria area. As a direct service provider to this population for several years, I have seen the trauma of life for these individuals living on the streets.

Our city has a sizable and growing population of disenfranchised citizens who desperately need the involvement and support of their city to live safe and viable lives. Successfully accommodating this population makes our entire city a better place to live and work. It is a moral imperative that must be met.

The Community Service Board has a proven track record in managing and operating residential properties for consumers with mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse. They demonstrate competence, which will be invaluable in accessing the HUD funding.

If we lose this opportunity to provide permanent supportive housing for our street people, what will happen to this population. I urge you to support the CSB plan and our city will reap the benefits.

Sincerely

Dofreda Hall-Bullock



<CarsonNCA@aol.com>

02/12/2007 02:32 PM

To <erwagner@comcast.net>, <hsdunn@ipbtax.com>,
<JssJennings@aol.com>, <jlr@cpma.com>,
<komorosj@nasd.com>, <fossum@rand.org>,
cc <maryriley@comcast.net>

bcc

Subject Alexandria Needs Save Haven

10

3-17-07

Dear Members of the Planning Commission and the City Council

As a resident, a housing activist, and a member of an Old Town church, I write to request your approval for the Safe Haven proposed for North Patrick Street. This has been a long and difficult road for everyone involved, but I am hopeful that with this set of hearings and actions our city will move forward to provide safe and dignified housing for our brothers and sisters. While I understand that some of the neighbors are concerned, the records of our city in screening group home admissions, providing mentoring and guidance, and respecting the needs and rights of neighbors is a strong one. I remind you that many of the neighbors (including Christ Church) are not opposed, and see this as a substantial improvement over keeping these people living on the street.

The North Patrick building offers an excellent opportunity for us to provide 'housing first,' and help folks begin to recover and reclaim their lives. At David's Place (Carpenter's Shelter) and at Christ Church, we try to assist people in need with food, transportation tokens, clothing, prayer and personal contact. Of course many people on the street need a great deal more. The evidence from across the country shows that offering supervised housing can lead to reduced community costs in many ways. Dollars aside, these people live in Alexandria and they need our help. All of us need help at times in our lives. Please vote yes to make this happen.

Nancy Carson

301 West Masonic View

10

3-17-07



"James Krustapentus"
<krustapentus@gmail.com>

02/20/2007 06:14 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, cc <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

bcc

Subject Letter of support for Safe Haven

On behalf of the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission, I wanted to forward a letter of support for the Safe Haven Project. Please find it attached.

If you have any questions, or if I can provide you with any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you very much for your time regarding this important matter.

Sincerely,
Jim Krustapentus
Chair

317A E Mount Ida Ave



703-683-3785 Safe Haven Support Letter 2007.doc

The Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission

February 20, 2007

Jim Krustapentus, Chair
Jerome Coordts, PhD
Arlene Hewitt
Lami Jeffrey-Coker, MD
John Klousia, MD
Rika Maeshiro, MD
Richard Merritt
Farhia Mussa
Mary Riley
Bonnie Sakallaris
Vince Whitmore
Robert Younes, MD

On behalf of the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission, we wanted to urge you to support the Community Services Board's (CSB's) Safe Haven Project on 115 North Patrick Street.

As you know, the Safe Haven Project will help provide permanent supportive housing for 12 homeless men and women who have mental health, substance abuse and/or other medical disabilities, who would otherwise be living on the streets. It will provide critically needed treatment in a permanent, safe, and secure setting, something that typical homeless shelters cannot provide. Additionally, qualified health professionals will be assessing, monitoring, and treating the people at Safe Haven.

In Alexandria, according to a recent survey, there are approximately over 400 homeless persons, of whom 42 were known to have severe mental illness. Safe Haven will fill a significant gap in Alexandria's ability to meet the needs of its homeless population.

According to the American Psychiatric Association, more than 22 percent of the US population will suffer from a clearly diagnosable mental disorder involving a degree of incapacity that interferes with relationships, employment, or activities of daily life.

Safe Haven is a vital service that Alexandria needs in order to help those who would otherwise not have a safe setting to receive this type of support.

We strongly encourage you to support the Safe Haven Project. CSB has worked diligently on the planning of this project and in responding to questions and concerns from the surrounding community. Their commitments to caring for some of our most vulnerable citizens and to facilitating a better understanding of this population's needs are to be commended.

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. If we or the Public Health Advisory Commission can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

James P. Krustapentus
Chair

Rika Maeshiro, M.D., M.P.H.
Vice Chair

10
3-17-07



<patricetighe@hotmail.com>

02/20/2007 08:48 PM

Please respond to
<patricetighe@hotmail.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Safe Haven

Time: [Tue Feb 20, 2007 20:48:56] IP Address: [68.48.106.237]

Response requested:

First Name: Patrice
Last Name: Tighe
Street Address: 301 Summers Drive
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-836-5790
Email Address: patricetighe@hotmail.com
Subject: Safe Haven
301 Summers Drive
Alexandria, VA 22301-2446
February 20, 2007

Dear City Council member

I'm writing again to request that you continue to support the creation of a Safe Haven in Alexandria.

The City is to be commended for approving its Ten Year Plan to end chronic homelessness in Alexandria. Since statistics have revealed that the number of chronic homeless in Alexandria is increasing, the creation of a Safe Haven at 115 North Patrick Street is a very important step in the plan to decrease the number of chronic mentally ill homeless individuals.

Comments:

I hope that the current neighborhood opposition to the proposed Safe Haven site at 115 North Patrick street will not cause the City Council to set aside this opportunity to provide practical and compassionate help to Alexandria's mentally ill chronic homeless population. Neighborhood concern is understandable, but the Community Services Board (CSB) has meticulously

addressed and followed up on concerns that neighbors and other Alexandria residents have brought to its attention regarding the Safe Haven site, and the CSB has a track record of successfully operating residential programs in Alexandria for more than 20 years. At this time, the Alexandria community has much to gain if the City Council continues to support the Safe Haven site that it approved in June 2004. As an Alexandria resident, a former chair of the ALIVE House Shelter for Women and Families, and a former ALIVE President, I hope that the Alexandria City Council will stand behind its commitment to a Safe Haven at 115 North Patrick Street.

Yours truly

Patrice Malley Tighe

10

3-17-07



"Mary Jo Johnson"
<johnsonmaryjo@hotmail.com
>

03/01/2007 07:09 PM

To <erwagner@comcast.net>, <hsdunn@ipbtax.com>, <jssjennings@aol.com>, <jlr@cpma.com>, <komorosj@nasd.com>, <fossum@rand.org>, <jim.hartmann@alexandriava.gov>, <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

bcc

Subject Safe Haven

Dear Hon. Mayor Euille, Members of the City Council, and Members of the Planning Commission,

The Safe Haven "Housing First" model has been proven to work to keep people housed and to move the chronic homeless into services and treatment. Therefore, in the spirit of good government for all Alexandrians, and those who have special needs, I urge you to support Safe Haven on Patrick Street. The Patrick Street site has a long history as a site to serve persons with severe mental illness and substance use disorders. Just as important is the fact that the Community Services Board has a long history of successfully operating residential and day programs. We can find confidence in their 25 year record.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Johnson

3947 Fort Worth Ave.

Alexandria, Virginia 22304

10

3-17-07



"Hall, Andrew B."
<ANDREW.B.HALL@saic.com
>

02/22/2007 12:20 PM

To <erwagner@comcast.net>, <hsdunn@ipbtax.com>, <jssjennings@aol.com>, <jlr@cpma.com>, <komorosj@nasd.com>, <fossum@rand.org>, cc <Michele.Evans@alexandriava.gov>, <jim.hartmann@alexandriava.gov>

bcc

Subject Letter of Support for SAFE HAVEN

To: Honorable Mayor of Alexandria, Members of City Council, and the Members of Planning Commission

Cc: Office of the City Manager

Please accept the attached letter of support for the SAFE HAVEN SUP.

Thank you,

Andrew & Michelle Hall
420 E. Windsor Ave
Alexandria, VA 22201



Final SAFE HAVEN.pdf

February 22, 2007

From: Andrew & Michelle Hall, 420 E. Windsor Ave, Alexandria, VA 22201

To: Honorable Mayor of Alexandria, Members of City Council, and the Members of Planning Commission

Cc: Office of the City Manager

Subject: Letter of Support for Safe Haven, Special Use Permit, (SUP), at 115 N. Patrick Street

Reference: Planning Commission SUP #2007-0002, March 6, 2007
City Council Docket # TBD, March 17, 2007

The following is a letter of support for proposed Safe Haven, SUP at the 115 N. Patrick Street location. Alexandria's approach to decentralized sheltering and residential services makes the location in Old Town acceptable under the "Fair Share" approach adopted nearly ten years ago. Being closely located to a number of Community Service Board, (CSB) group homes, the management and the consumers of those services compels us to share our positive experiences of the past seven years. Over that time, we have not experienced any criminal or negative activities, a stigma usually associated with group homes and over the same period of time Del Ray has experienced some of the highest increases in the value of property in the City and the nation.

The Safe Haven, SUP located at 115 N. Patrick Street has our support for the following reasons: locating this service at this location is a fair and equitable diversification of the city's sheltering and residential services; the City of Alexandria owns the property and therefore no better value to the taxpayers; the ability to provide a home to 12 consumers in an apartment like setting, supervised 24 hours a day, with the magnitude of services and resources available within close proximity of this location is more likely to contribute to the success of the consumers; and Federal Grants help to offset operating costs to the City's taxpayers.

In response to a very vocal minority of residents of the City of Alexandria, who oppose this SUP and Safe Haven Operating at the Patrick street location; few have lived closer to more Community Service Board, (CSB) group homes, shelters, transitional housing or apartments than our family and our neighbors in the East Del Ray neighborhood. If measured from the intersections of La Grande Ave. and East Windsor Ave. there are **four** City managed properties within two blocks and **eight** City managed properties within six blocks of our home. For this reason we feel compelled to address the location and express our experiences with the consumers, the management, and the safety concerns that have been raised at public meetings and in the media.

The local residence has had ample opportunity to work with City Staff in drafting SUP conditions that are legal, measurable, and commiserate with the congregate homes or

small multi-family dwellings in the City. Measures such as access control, noise abatement, and trash pick-up to the property line, fencing and screening should be address by the SUP. As reported in the Alexandria Gazette February 1, 2007:

“Councilman Rob Krupicka attended the meeting to lend his support for the project. After the forum was over, he said that he expected the forthcoming public hearing on the special-use permit to find a middle ground that everybody could be happy with.

“Like ever other SUP, it will have conditions,” said Krupicka. “I think that we will get to a solution that the community can support.”

Krupicka, a former member of the Community Service Board, recalled a similar uproar in Del Ray 10 years ago when the city government wanted to create a new group home. He remembered attending a particularly contentious meeting of the Del Ray Citizens Association in which many of the same concerns were expressed. But after the group home became operational, he said, neighbors became supportive of the idea.

“Once they saw that it wasn’t going to pose a threat, those who opposed it changed their mind,” he said. “It’s now the cleanest house on the block with no trash, no late-night parties and no noise.”

The SUP process allows for review on an annual or biannual basis and should egregious conditions or violations occur an administrative hearing can occur prior to the automatic review process that may result in the revocation of the SUP. This is the local residence recourse should chronic or catastrophic conditions arise. The CSB site management should be responsive to complaints as it is in their best interest to resolve all complaints in the quickest most efficient manner possible and I encourage all residence in the neighborhood to be involved in this process.

In the nearly seven years that we have resided in our East Windsor Ave. home and the two years previous to that we resided on Adams Ave. we have never had a bad experience with any consumer of City services. To date, we have hosted and attended several neighborhood parties that consumers of Alexandria City services have attended. These consumers are long time residents of these facilities and have lived in the neighborhood longer than my family. These consumers are members of our diverse neighborhood and are embraced as you would reach out to all of your neighbors. We have watched fireworks on First Night and 4th of July; shared chili at the “Annual Chili Cook Off in the Alley” and celebrated Cinco de Mayo and National Night Out with all of our neighbors (to include consumers). They (consumers) even attend Art on the Avenue, as do the rest of the neighbors and at least 20,000 of our closest friends.

The CSB management of these facilities appear to keep the facilities and the consumers in good order. The track record of the CSB is equally impressive as they have been operating residential programs in Alexandria for more than 20 years and currently operate 63 residential sites (173 beds) across the City. The residents and staff of all our programs value our role as good neighbors and take pride in keeping our

properties well maintained, attractive, and orderly. Since January 1998, when data collection was automated, the CSB has served a total of 706 consumers in its residential programs with no significant community incidents and a high degree of success, as measured in part by consumers' movement to more independent living.

In the seven years of residing on East Windsor Ave. we have not experienced any criminal activity, loitering, or other activities that maybe considered negative in relation to the CSB homes being operated and activities attributed to consumers of those services. As a graduate of the Alexandria Citizens Police Academy (2000 Andrew) and (2004 Michelle) and President of the Alexandria Crime Prevention Council since 2003 (Andrew) and a combined 45 years of military and security experience; few would be more sensitive to criminal indicators than our family.

Our support for the Safe Haven SUP and operation is based on our first hand past experience with CSB group homes. The positive interaction with the consumers of City services as well as the CSB management of those facilities. The use of this City owned property is the best value for the taxpayers of the City of Alexandria. Most of all the lack of criminal activities that many would feel is associated with this type of group home is unfounded in our experience. It is recommended that the Planning Commission apply appropriate SUP conditions for this use and forward those to the Honorable Mayor and City Council for approval.

10

3-17-07



"McDonald, Renee"
<renee.mcdonald@mail.house.gov>

02/22/2007 12:24 PM

To "alexvamayor@aol.com" <alexvamayor@aol.com>,
"macdonaldcouncil@msn.com" <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
"councilmangaines@aol.com" <councilmangaines@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject Safe Haven support letter from Congressman James P. Moran

In light of tonight's hearing before the Planning Commission, Congressman James P. Moran wanted to share his thoughts with all of you.

Thanks, Renee

Renee McDonald
Congressman Jim Moran
333 N. Fairfax Street
Suite 201
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 971-4700
(703) 922-9436



20070222120708005.pdf

JAMES P. MORAN
8TH DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2239 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4608
(202) 225-4376
FAX: (202) 225-0017

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
DEFENSE
INTERIOR

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

DISTRICT OFFICES:
333 N FAIRFAX STREET
SUITE 201
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
(703) 971-4700
FAX: (703) 922-9436

www.house.gov/moran

February 20, 2007

1760 RESTON PARKWAY
SUITE 504
RESTON, VA 20190
(703) 481-4339
FAX: (703) 481-4338

Mr William D. Euille, Mayor
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear ~~Mayor~~ ^{Bill} Euille:


I am writing to express my support for the Community Services Board's Safe Haven program, which will be located at 115 N. Patrick Street. As you know, the CSB operated a similar program for citizens at the same site for more than 20 years before it was relocated last summer.

The Safe Haven program will house 12 homeless men and women who are currently living on the street and are unable to use the existing shelter system due to their mental illness and sometimes co-existing substance abuse disorders. The Safe Haven will provide intensive, 24-hour, awake overnight coverage with professional mental health staffing. The impact of this program on the surrounding neighborhoods will be minimal, and past research has shown that property values are not affected by the placement of special needs residences.

The U S Department of Housing and Urban Development requires all jurisdictions which receive federal housing grants to develop a plan to end chronic homelessness. In 2005, the Alexandria City Council adopted a "Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness" and the Safe Haven program will play a pivotal role in eradicating this social ill

As your Congressman, please let me know if there is anything that I can do to bring the Safe Haven program to fruition. I wish you all the best in the coming year

Yours truly,


James P. Moran

JPM/im

cc: Vice Mayor Andrew H. Macdonald
Council Member Ludwig P. Gaines
Council Member C. Rob Krupicka
Council Member Timothy B. Lovain
Councilwoman Del Pepper
Council Member Paul C. Smedberg
City Manager James Hartmann
City Clerk Jackie Henderson
Planning Commission

10

3-17-07



"Linda Holland"
<lholland33@comcast.net>

02/21/2007 04:55 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <DELPepper@aol.com>, cc <jim.hartmann@alexandriava.gov>, <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

bcc

Subject Emailing: Safe Haven Letter

Please see our attached letter supporting the establishment of the Safe Haven to be located at 115 N. Patrick Street. Thank you.

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how



attachments are handled. Safe Haven Letter.doc

206 Commonwealth Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22301

February 21, 2007

Chairman Eric Wagner
H. Steward Dunn, Jr.
Jessie Jennings
H. Lawrence Robinson
John Komoroske
Donna Fossum

Dear Mr. Chairman and Planning Commission Members:

Re: SUP 2007-0002

We wish to express our support for the proposed establishment of a Community Services Board Safe Haven residential facility at 115 North Patrick Street.

For the past twenty years, we have resided across the street from a Community Services Board group home at 3 West Linden Street. We are hearing many of the same arguments being raised today concerning 115 North Patrick Street as were put forth twenty years ago with respect to 3 West Linden (unsuitable location, safety issues, detrimental effect on property values).

Our experience with having a Community Services Board residential facility as an immediate neighbor has been completely favorable. Over the years, our concerns and those of many of our neighbors with respect to potentially negative aspects were proven to be unfounded. The facility at 3 West Linden has been consistently well-managed and well maintained. There have been no safety issues, no quality of life issues, and no negative effect on property values.

On the basis of our experience of raising our family and living for many years in close proximity to the Community Services Board residential facility, we doubt that the concerns which have been expressed about the proposed facility will be proven to have any foundation in fact.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Holland
Linda M. Holland

Cc: Kendra Jacobs

10
3-17-07



"Beverly Griffin"
<bgriffin@corpuschristischool.org>

02/21/2007 02:24 PM

Please respond to
"Beverly Griffin"
<bgriffin@corpuschristischool.org>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, cc "George E. Chiplock Jr." <gchiplock@corpuschristischool.org>

bcc

Subject Safe Haven Support Letter

To Whom It May Concern at the Alexandria City Council:

Please find attached a letter of support for the proposed Safe Haven project in Alexandria, VA.

Best Regards,

Beverly S. Griffin, School Secretary
for
George E. Chiplock, Jr.
Principal
Corpus Christi School
3301 Glen Carlyn Road



Falls Church, VA 22041 Max'sPlaceLtrToAlexFeb07.doc

CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL

Elementary/Junior High

3301 Glen Carlyn Road
Falls Church, VA 22041
(703) 820-7450
Fax (703) 820-9635
E-mail: info@corpuschristischool.org



Early Childhood Center

7506 St. Philip's Court
Falls Church, VA 22042
(703) 573-4570
Fax (703) 573-6832
E-mail: earlychildhoodcenter@corpuschristischool.org

February 21, 2007

The Honorable William D. Euille
Mayor, City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille,

This letter is written in support of the proposed Safe Haven project to be developed on Patrick Street in Alexandria. This support is based on my position as Principal of Corpus Christi School, which is located across the street from a similar house managed by New Hope Housing called *Max's Place* in Fairfax County.

In the fall of 1998, New Hope Housing informed St. Anthony Church, Corpus Christi School and the nearby housing communities of their intention to open a safe haven shelter for mentally disabled homeless people. As a faith based Catholic school and parish we were in support of this project. We saw in our support a practical example to what we teach as illustrated in the Beatitudes quote, "Feed the Hungry, Clothe the Naked and Shelter the Homeless."

I must admit there was anxiety regarding the project. Significant opposition came from certain parents and the neighborhood homeowners association due to the nature of the mental conditions of the residents. A town meeting was held at the school to discuss these concerns. From that meeting an advisory group was formed representing the school, parent/teacher organization and the neighboring homeowners associations. Members of the Safe Haven staff and Fairfax County representatives were also included. Concerns were addressed, basic rules established, in-services for the school teaching staff held and non-confidential information regarding the residents shared.

On November 1, 1998 the shelter held an Open House that was unfortunately marred by a group of protestors picketing the shelter. In early 1999 the first residents took occupancy of the shelter and from that time to the present there have been no reported problem incidents. The safe haven shelter has been a good neighbor and in all honesty, I sometimes forget that the shelter is across the street from the entrance to the school.

I believe the proposed Alexandria Safe Haven will provide service to the community and its residents. I urge you to support this project.

Respectfully,

George E. Chiplock, Jr.

George E. Chiplock, Jr. (Electronic Signature)
Principal

cc: Mary Riley, Chair, Alexandria Community Services Board



8725



8725

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3-17-07



"Mary Dixon Hutcheson"
<mdhutcheson@historicchristchurch.org>

03/13/2007 10:44 AM

To "Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald"
<macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, "Del Pepper"
<delpepper@aol.com>, "Jackie Henderson"

cc

bcc

Subject Safe Haven

To all members of the Alexandria City Council: I work at Christ Church and am involved with our Lazarus Ministry, an outreach ministry to those in our city who are in need and facing significant difficulties in their lives. I was very happy to hear that the Planning Commission unanimously approved the SUP for Safe Haven and hope the city council will follow suit. Alexandria is a wonderful city and is a wonderful example to other cities on how a municipality should operate. Having Safe Haven in Alexandria to address a critical need of some of our citizens will demonstrate that this city is a caring, sensitive, and responsive community. Alexandria needs Safe Haven! I hope you will continue to give this issue serious thought and reflection and that on March 17th our city will do the right thing.

Thank you very much.

Mary Dixon Hutcheson

Assistant for Outreach, Mission, and Pastoral Care
Christ Church
118 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
703-549-1450 ext. 127

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3-17-07



<CarsonNCA@aol.com>
03/13/2007 02:41 PM

To <MacdonaldCouncil@msn.com>, <Councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <DELPepper@aol.com>, <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>, <jhoben@wpc-alex.org>, <maryriley@comcast.net>
cc
bcc
Subject Support Safe Haven

We ask that our attached letter be included in the hearing record on Safe haven, and encourage your support for this project.

AOL now offers free email to everyone. Find out more about what's free from AOL at AOL.com.



Safe Haven Council AS SENT 3.07.doc



March 13, 2007

Mayor & City Council
City of Alexandria

Re: Safe Haven

Housing Action is a citizens' coalition working to preserve a diverse housing stock in Alexandria, so that the city may continue to be a vibrant, inclusive and active community.

As the Co-Chairs of Housing Action, we strongly support Council approval of the Safe Haven proposed for North Patrick Street. A safe and permanent home for our disabled is an essential component of a policy of housing for all. We are familiar with the work of the Community Services Board and so many others who are trying to implement the City's goal of ending homelessness and offering 'housing first' as a humane and therapeutic response to citizens who need help.

We are confident that the Safe Haven will be a good neighbor. We believe it is an efficient, prudent and wise step for Alexandria.

We urge your support for the creation of a Safe Haven.

James Hoben and Nancy Carson
Co-Chairs



United Way
of the National Capital Area

10
3-17-07
RECEIVED
MAR 13 2007
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

March 13, 2007

The Honorable William D. Euille and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3211

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of the City Council:

I am writing to express the Alexandria United Way Regional Council's support for the proposed Safe Haven facility at 115 N. Patrick Street (SUP #2007-0002), Docket Item 10 on the City Council meeting agenda for March 17, 2007. Over the years, the leadership of the Alexandria United Way has been hopeful that our City would build Safe Haven.

The proposed Safe Haven facility, once it is built, will provide critical support services to the chronically homeless individuals in our community. Many of our fellow community members will most likely not receive the vital services they need to recover from mental illness and/or other disabling conditions without the building of Safe Haven. This proposed facility is not a luxury but a vital and essential service for the chronically homeless in Alexandria. The building of Safe Haven also concerns one of the core values of our community—providing services and opportunities for those in our community who need help.

The discussion on Safe Haven has been going on for years and the most significant outcome of the passing of time has been the delay of necessary treatment and hope for the chronically homeless in our community. The members of the Alexandria United Way Regional Council hope these delays will finally come to an end and the City Council will vote in favor of the Special Use Permit for Safe Haven.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me via telephone at 703-578-3054 or e-mail at Aclomax@aol.com.

Sincerely,

Allen C. Lomax
Chair, Regional Council
Alexandria United Way

cc: James K. Hartmann, City Manager
Jackie M. Henderson, City Clerk

District of Columbia Service Center
1725 I Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20006
202-488-2000 (phone)
202-223-2648 (fax)

Maryland Service Center
1100 Bonifant Street, Suite 501
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-731-8320 (phone)
301-562-5980 (fax)

Virginia Service Center / Administrative Services
8391 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200
Vienna, VA 22182
202-488-2000 (phone)
703-288-3219 (fax)

ACLU of Virginia

530 East Main Street, Suite 310, Richmond, Virginia 23219 (804) 644-8080

March 12, 2007

The Honorable William Euille
Mayor of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: Support for Safe Haven Special Use Permit

Dear Mayor Euille:

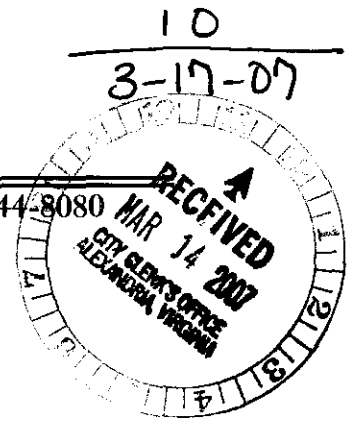
I am writing to urge you and all members of the Alexandria City Council to support the recommendation of the Alexandria Planning Commission that a special use permit be granted to the Alexandria Community Services Board for the operation of Safe Haven for the mentally ill and substance abuse homeless at 115 North Patrick Street.

Although the report of the staff of the Department of Planning and Zoning, which was adopted by the Planning Commission in its entirety, was excellent and responded fully to all the concerns and objections raised about the project, I think it is important to point out another factor not addressed in that report. The ACLU of Virginia believes that denial of a special use permit, or any action that would significantly restrict the operation or impede the swift establishment of Safe Haven at 115 North Patrick Street, would raise serious questions of violation of federal law.

Under the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as Supreme Court and federal appeals court decisions, a local government like Alexandria cannot deny housing on the basis of zoning laws to disabled individuals due to factors related to their disability. Further, were the City to grant a special use permit but encumber it with numerous conditions not required of other, similarly situated non-handicapped individuals in that zoning district, that action would be considered discriminatory under those acts.

Congress said explicitly when it passed the Fair Housing Amendments of 1988 that the amendments are "intended to prohibit the application of special requirements through land-use regulations, restrictive covenants, and conditional or special use permits that have the effect of limiting the ability of [the handicapped] to live in the residence of their choice in the community." There is no doubt that the mentally disabled are protected by that statute.

The legislative history of the Fair Housing Amendments as well as the cases also state unequivocally that such housing cannot be denied on the basis of stereotypes, fears



and irrational prejudice about the mentally disabled, or simply opposition to the housing by the neighbors.

Even before the Fair Housing Act was amended to cover the disabled, the Supreme Court struck down, under the Equal Protection Clause, a local government's denial of a special use permit because of the negative attitudes of the neighbors. The Court said "mere negative attitudes, or fear, unsubstantiated by factors which are properly cognizable in a zoning proceeding, are not permissible bases for treating a home for the mentally retarded differently from apartment houses, multiple dwellings, and the like."

The courts have held that even unreasonable delay in granting an application for a group home amounts to constructive denial and thus a violation of the Fair Housing Act, because housing discrimination causes a uniquely immediate injury.

I thank you for your attention. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 804/644-8080 or kwillis@acluva.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent Willis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kent Willis
Executive Director