

From: Alicia Vila Geis [mailto:aliciavila@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2009 1:40 PM
To: Town Council
Subject: HOMELESS SHELTER LOCATION

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing you to express my deep concerns about the proposed new location for men's Homeless Shelter

It is clear that downtown Chapel Hill needs to be more safe and friendly and that is the reason why homeless population is being moved away from downtown. I do, too, want to feel safer when I am strolling around with my family.

This does not mean that it is safe and wise to move 50 homeless men close to schools, parks, playgrounds and our homes. This area is already burdened with recently expanded facility for people who have a history of substance abuse (Freedom house), which is located less than half a mile from the proposed Shelter location.

As a physician I have (on daily basis) experience with homeless individuals and I am aware, more than many of you, how unstable population we are talking about. Here, I express my deep apologies to those unfortunate ones that lost their homes in this unstable economic environment.

More healthy and safe choice for all of us would be to move homeless people to the place that will help to bring their needed self-dignity back. Research shows that the most effective strategy is to move them to rural area where they will be able to have hands on jobs and provide for there own food planting vegetable, and caring for the livestock.

Stunned by this proposal I will work to move the whole community against this proposal including Seawell and Smith school PTA.

Fifty men bed facility with 23 % mentally ill, 40% with substance abuse problems, 30% released from the criminal justice system is a great danger for our children, and I will assure that this is understood by every single mother within my reach. I will ask every single dad to take this matter as an issue of the highest priority to try to secure the safe enviroment for their kids. I don't want to be forced to spend all the time in the park constantly watching over the kids.

That way, if a single hair falls from any kid's head, at least I will know that I did my best to prevent it.

Sincerely,
Stela Susac-Pavic, M.D.
Dag Pavic, M.D.