December 17, 2004

To the Mayor & Town Council, Town Manager, and Chapel Hill Town Departments:

This week when several owners in The Meadows abutting Legion Road mentioned seeing a newspaper article about possibly locating a Homeless Men's Shelter on Legion Road, we looked for the article and composed this letter compiling the various reasons residents in the area, including Turnberry, oppose the Legion Road location for a men's shelter.

The enclosed letter opposing the possible Legion Road site for a Homeless Men's Shelter has one signature from each household which we could reach in a single day.

There are many more who oppose this but who were at work or away on the day we circulated this letter.

We hope this will end the discussion of using town-owned land on Legion Road for a men's shelter.

Sincerely,

Lynne K. Kane, 11 Lark Circle

Mayor Kevin Foy and Town Council Chapel Hill, NC

re: Legion Road possible Site for Homeless Men's Shelter

To the Mayor and Town Council of Chapel Hill:

We, the undersigned, residents abutting Legion Road, are appalled that anyone would consider building a shelter for homeless men anywhere near private residences. The presence of the Interfaith Council men's shelter near the town parking lot at Rosemary and Church Streets causes many residents to avoid that parking lot in order to avoid wandering males there, and this has been reported to the Council Committee on Downtown Revitalization.

In addition, nearby residents have other reasons to oppose the Legion Road town-owned site as a homeless men's shelter:

- 1. Though homelessness can affect any of us due to illness or divorce or job loss, many of the homeless are substance-abusers. Substance-abusers are a nuisance, and sometimes a danger, to adults, children, and businesses.
- 2. There is a charter school, Pace Academy, operating on Legion Road.
- 3. There is a neat, quiet affordable-housing complex at Legion Road and Scarlett Drive.
- 4. There are several hotels and business buildings in the area, the Sheraton Hotel and the Europa Building being the closest and largest.
- 5. While the shelter would benefit by being on the city busline, a resident who takes the bus to and from work has already expressed concern about waiting where homeless males are grouped.
- 6. Property values would go down for residents, possibly from Ephesus Church Road to the end of Legion Road extension, and for several blocks east, if not also across 15-501 from the Legion Road site. Business property values would also likely go down.
- 7. The Town cemetery abutting the Legion Road-Scarlett Road houses is becoming full, and the Town will have to find other land to provide further burial plots if this site abutting the south side of the Town cemetery is not available to extend the cemetery. It makes no sense to divide a Town cemetery into several small separated segments.

To summarize, we agree with Rebecca Clark of Crest Drive, as quoted in the Chapel Hill section of the Durham Herald, December 5, 2004 (pp.1&5): "...it [a men's homeless shelter] doesn't need to go in a residential area." There is a suitable third option, near the planned Town Operations Center on Millhouse Road. The Chapel Hill Town Council should not waste time investigating residential sites.

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