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To: [Una Glass](#); [Diana Rich](#); [Sarah Glade Gurney](#); [Neysa Hinton](#); [Patrick Slayter](#)
Cc: [Mary Gourley](#); [Lawrence McLaughlin](#); [Kari Svanstrom](#)
Subject: Proposal for services to the unhoused
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 10:43:28 AM

Madam Mayor, Council members, and staff

It is unfortunate that our hometown has residents who have found it nearly impossible to obtain and retain housing here. Most of them have lived here before they were homeless and experienced hard times, sometimes due to forces outside their control and sometimes due to medical issues or bad decisions on their parts. It is heartening to see that gradually, some of them are beginning to make good decisions and to get help to become self-sustaining. You, West County Community Services, SAVS, and the churches are to be congratulated on your efforts to make this more possible.

You are well aware that this is often a slow process and that there is a core of people who still need help in moving toward housing and self-sustainability. Having worked and volunteered in the field until late in my 70's, I know that it is sometimes a frustrating effort. It is, however, something we need to continue doing not only for those individuals, but for our community at large. I strongly suggest that the Committee on the Unhoused continue its function as a body to which community concerns can be raised, as the usual glitches need to be worked out.

The current proposal involving the industrial site in north Sebastopol, away from most sensitive uses, is an improved proposal. which lessens the impact community gathering places, residences, and local businesses. It reduces the City costs over those previously proposed while improving the services needed by the proposed residents, thus increasing the likelihood of their moving toward independence. It gives the residents chances to show that they DO want to improve their lives, as well as a chance to show that the broader community expects them to take an active part in that process. Without such assistance, a number of people may face health-threatening situations. For those reasons, I am hopeful that the City Council declares a homeless emergency and agrees to the pilot program and partial funding for the Safe Parking proposal on tonight's agenda.

I personally pledge to make a donation to SAVS to assist in paying a portion of the site lease costs. I am hopeful that businesses which will benefit from the proposed project will also make a contribution to SAVS in recognition of the improvements they expect to occur.

I am proud of the efforts of our small, and caring, community.
Gale Brownell