

**From:** [Kate Haug](#)  
**To:** [Mary Gourley](#)  
**Subject:** SAVS - No Experience, Not a Good Choice, Public Comment 11.30.21  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 30, 2021 4:40:05 PM

---

Dear Council Members,

I'm writing to you in regards to Sonoma Applied Village Services (SAVS) and their lack of any experience running and managing the type of transient facility they are proposing near a public school entrance and popular walking trail. Their Initial Registration Form as a Charitable Trust was filed in March of 2020.

They have no completed projects on their website, only concept projects. The SAVS website seems to be an aspirational piece of marketing rather than a list of actual accomplishments with data and numbers to support any claims.

If you have looked at SAVS, 990 Form, it appears that they have zero experience running the type of facility which they are proposing. From their 990 Form, it appears that they have never managed a project with a budget over \$300,000.

**SAVS has No Experience:**

No experience managing this type of facility and site;

No case management experience;

No experiencing hiring and retaining employees for this type of facility;

No security experience;

No experience opening an RV village in terms of construction, facilities operation or site preparation; SAVS has no consistent record of moving transients from the street lifestyle that has no rules and regulations to a managed facility, no demonstrated ability to enforce rules and regulations in a managed facility; No demonstrated ability to organize transient people to 'self govern ;

No experience closing an RV village. What will happen when the CoC partial fund grant runs out in 12 months and many, if not all of the residents do not have permanent housing? Will the City be liable for housing all these people? Will these people now be residents of Sebastopol?;

No proven track record of transitioning people from a temporary site into permanent housing so there is zero guarantee that this work will work. What happens if no residents transition into permanent housing?;

No experience with case management of mentally ill people or drug addicts. Who on their staff is a trained psychologist, social worker, or mental health professional? How many hours per week will they be onsite? What types of programs will they run to address mental health and drug addiction?;

\*\*\* No experience running this type of facility in an area where the primary neighboring institutions service children, youth and families, which include the Sebastopol Independent

Charter, the Sebastopol Community Church, the Ceres Garden and a popular walking trail. All of these institutions and organizations have a demographic of children, youth and families. SAVS has zero experience managing a transient facility in such close proximity to organizations whose primary clientele are children, youth and families....\*\*\*\*\*

### City Liability

1. Who is responsible if there is an overdose and someone dies? This happened a few weeks ago on Morris Street?
2. Who is responsible if there is a fire? A fire on Morris Street took out utilities for 1,000 people in 2020. A fire this summer destroyed an RV at Park Village.
3. Who is responsible if an incident happens involving a child? Would the City be open to lawsuit if it knowingly contracts with an organization that has no experience running a transient facility in close proximity to multiple entities whose primary demographic is children, youth and families?
4. Who is responsible if a sexual assault or other violent crime takes place on the SAVS site? Does SAVS have any experience in managing a situation of such a serious nature? If so, when?
5. What happens when the money runs out and there is no alternative site. What happens when the money runs out? Is the City vulnerable to lawsuits by homeless advocates if SAVS is unable to secure housing at the end of the year?
6. Will the City carry an insurance policy for the site? If so, how much will it cost taxpayers?

If SAVS has experience transitioning people to permanent housing, why have they not transitioned anyone from Morris Street? They have been working on Morris Street, actively fundraising, since summer. How come they have not secured any of the vacant spaces at the Sebastopol Inn for the illegal RV campers on Morris Street? How come they haven't moved anyone into any programs? If they are good at transitioning people, how come they haven't done it on Morris Street?

Please do not open our City up to this liability. Please do not compromise our children, youth and families by contracting with an organization that has no experience.

Best,

Kate Haug