

From: [Vanessa Murugan](#)
To: [Mary Gourley](#)
Subject: Re: Public Comment_Reckless Leadership - Approving Homeless Village with Shared Fence to Children
Date: Tuesday, December 07, 2021 6:00:41 PM

Mary Gourley,

Please include the email I just sent for the public comments for the meeting this evening, 12/7/21.

Thank you,

On Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 5:59 PM Vanessa Murugan [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear City Council,

There are no words to describe my disappointment with your leadership. I am incapacitated with rage that an approval for a RV Homeless Village was pushed through with 24 hours notice to neighbors who have young children and infants living mere feet from the encampment and hundreds of children that attend a school nearby.

The lack of due process with a decision of such magnitude waffles on reckless leadership and we are currently looking into taking legal action.

The spirit of urgency around receiving \$368,000 to "clean up" the Barlow *industrial* district does not compare to the safety, health and wellbeing of children. These kids who are now to share a fence line with the homeless village deserved thoughtful consideration and discussion around the perimeters of a village housing a dense population of individuals that may struggle with drug addiction and mental illness.

From the very small fraction of information and time I have had to digest this now approved solution to support our town's unhoused, I do not see how this RV Homeless Village improves their life and likelihood to transition to independent living any more than their current situation on Morris Street. They will continue to live in the same dilapidated RVs and vehicles, they will be using unhygienic portable bathroom and handwashing facilities and still be receiving the counseling services that they have had for the last year from SAVS. The village seems just as inhumane for this population currently suffering. They will be merely removed from the town's posh city center Barlow District, away from the eyes of tourists and relocated to a consolidated, more discrete residential area sharing a fence line with young children.

The below are our current questions and concerns that should have been discussed and answered prior to an approval from the city council. Any community outreach efforts from the city and/or SAVS **after** the approval of the site and non-profit, SAVS running the pilot program, will get lost in the fact that this program is getting ushered in without weighing in the concerns of the public.

- A 'commitment' from SAVS that registered sex offenders will not be permitted in the Homeless Village is not a reassurance. What is the name of the responsible third party organization that will be regulating this.

- 30-60 days of security is not nearly sufficient or appropriate.
- What *specifically* are the village rules of conduct? What are the repercussions should a resident engage in the activities outside of the village but in close proximity to it?
- Our concerns were gaslighted during the city council meeting due to this being a one year location solution. Should St. Vincent de Paul decide to extend their offer of the lease past the stated one year, what agreement do you have with our community that this will not extend past the one year?
- Hygiene: despite your efforts to convince our community the village is not hazardly close to the school, many children will be passing by the village daily to attend their neighborhood school. Not to mention the children that play just feet away from the encampment. Specifically, how will hygienic of these RVs and vehicles be addressed?

Incredibly concerned parents,