

Platform	Comments
Facebook	<p>Your putting it next to the brand new children's park in ester short park? Where moms and babies are trying to play and feel safe?</p> <p>Where there is already a guy drinking icehouse every morning urinating on the rock columns on 8th and ester.</p> <p>Where ALL of the cities outside park events are hosted?</p> <p>A couple blocks from the waterfront where the city has been investing millions and tourists come to see? Portland made that EXACT mistake with the housing village they have now torn down because they realized it was a terrible idea to put it near a tourist center.</p> <p>Your going to put this ADJACENT to all of the major tourist spots of Vancouver?</p> <p>Yes they deserve shelter but don't make the same mistake portland did and concentrate homeless in the same area people from all over the country are visiting to see what the city is about.</p> <p>Two weeks ago there was a guy with a rusty axe being arrested between city hall and the waterfront trying to attack the other homeless in the field..it is insane to invite more of that.</p> <p>statistically the amount of rusty axe people that will live in that village is a non-zero number and by you intentionally casting out common sense on this you are endangering the children traveling across the city to play in the bright shiny new park being built two blocks away and everyone else trying to enjoy the very best part of the city.</p> <p>Of ALL the places in this very large city. RIGHT next to all of the biggest Vancouver tourist attractions is hands down theeeeeee WORST choice.</p> <p>Unless of course there is a law banning encampments within a mile of the safe stay to make sure people doing drugs and creating violence are not mixing with people trying to not do those things. That is the only way that could make sense.</p> <p>Otherwise your not just shooting this city in the foot you are delivering it a fatal blow. This is the HEART of Vancouver your going to throw this into. Your going to turn the heart of Vancouver into a slum.</p> <p>This is the only large Cascadian city that is not a complete dumpster fire yet. Please do not turn it into one.</p> <p>If anything maybe stop allowing the guy getting wasted on 8th and ester every day to continuously urinate in public in front of an entire coffee shop..</p> <p>Use common sense.</p> <p>please feel free to share this with anyone in the city</p> <p>Enough is enough. Do you go to plaid pantry and see what they are dealing with there on a daily basis? It is crazy!</p> <p>Absolutely put it in if you will ban camping outside of that area.</p>
Council Form	<p>I agree with nearby businesses and residents: this is not the right location for a shelter.</p> <p>I can foresee spillover into this historic neighborhood and Esther Short Park, which has become a focal point for a renewed downtown.</p> <p>Why not build a much-needed grocery store instead?</p>

	Jean M. Avery Vancouver resident
Email	Hello~
Geri Ellen Baer	<p>I am concerned about the location of the new Safe Community in Vancouver on 11th Street.</p> <p>I really like the idea, but I have a question. Forty people will move in. They now have a safe, clean place to live. Good. But what do they do during the day? Do the forty of them walk down the two blocks to Esther Short Park every day to hang around? Our downtown park can't stay clean, and open for children and adults if so many people descend on it every day. Will porta-potties be installed in the park to cover the additional traffic? They are not very pretty and our park is beautiful. Will there be enough programming to keep them off the street and wandering throughout downtown during the daylight hours? How will you ensure that the downtown residents will be safe and unhassled, especially at night. Will we get a designated patrol car to keep an eye on downtown at night?</p> <p>Please consider the downtown residents as well as our homeless. We pay exorbitant rent and mortgages to live where we do. Downtown Vancouver is a special place. We need some assurance that this program won't cause more difficulties that it solves. Please, please don't let Esther Short Park fall back into being what it was before.</p> <p>Thank you, Geri-ellen Baer</p>
Email	<p>- I have my office at 212 W13th st. Currently we have homeless wandering around the neighborhood and we have seen more criminal activity. Graphiti, theft, public urination and drug use. This used to be a pretty safe area. My concern is that the proposed camp will magnify the above criminal behavior. I live in Portland and have seen what it has done to our city, Vancouver still is ten times better but this camp will draw the wrong type into this neighborhood.</p> <p>My car got stolen from Burbuck motors in SE Portland. This theft was done by a homeless person that lived in the camp across the street from the shop in the micro housing project which is the same as you are proposing. The guy that stole my car while it was in front of the shop lived in the camp. Mike Burbuck the owner can attest this camp has drawn 100x more crime and drug use. Nobody wants to be around these areas and the crime that it brings. It is scary! It is not safe to have these camps near normal business activity, it will drive business away. Look at downtown Portland for what happens. Vacancy 40%, murders weekly, cars broken into or stolen. Not safe!</p> <p>Please take this into consideration before you guys allow this camp.</p> <p>Thank you Quinn Irvine</p>
Phone Call Raberta Lopez	Would not be a good fit in downtown. We already have low income and a shelter in this area. Further west or east would be a better fit
Email	Hello Vancouver City Team,

Sonia Cisneros	<p>No, I would not like the safe community pods to be located downtown off (11th street)! I am also disappointed with how our tax dollars are being utilized. I was homeless when I was seventeen. Stop enabling and giving away our tax dollars. It's time they get a job!! Work with developers to help build government assistance homes. They all need to start working! I would not like to walk over to the New Seasons Market and be harassed by some drug addict like they harass us at Esther Short park! We call the police department since they are under staffed sometimes they don't show up.</p> <p>Pass legislation that stops large firms that come in and buy our property to resell or put them up for rentals. This is creating a shortage for housing, driving costs through the roof! I love the Pacific Northwest but it's starting to become NOT affordable even for a working professional like myself! I pay \$2,500 per month in a two bedroom 900square feet unit!</p> <p>I am personally tired of seeing all the homeless taking a dump or peeing at Esther Short park! Not to mention the homeless shooting up drugs in front of kids! :(Building pods in residential neighborhood only brings more drugs and violence! Build pods in the middle of nowhere on large vacant land away from us!!</p> <p>Cheers, Sonia Sonia Cisneros</p>
Email Gail Cannady	<p>Greetings,</p> <p>> My husband and I live at Heritage Place Condominiums, less than two blocks from the proposed site.</p> <p>> We walk the neighborhoods in the early morning, and are very aware of the increasing number of people sleeping outside. On the curbs, in doorways, on the grass, even at the Fort in the Rose Garden. We should not be treating humans in this manner. It is appalling.</p> <p>> Our first choice would be to have a bricks & mortar shelter built on the block in question. Something like the Open Ministries Shelter nearby on 12th St. It is does good work, and is always clean and well kept. However, it would take months or years to build, and the crisis is now. We can't always have our first choice. As a temporary solution, the Stay Stay community seems to be the next best choice. Your assurances about no camping close to the new site are good, and we're sure efforts will be made to keep the exterior clean. Our home is on a floor high enough that we will be able to look inside the fences from above. We hope the inside is kept as clean as from the street. We hope that the crime rate decreases as it did in other neighborhoods.</p> <p>> We are not concerned about the length of time it takes people to transition into more permanent housing. If they have been homeless for years, they are not going to turn their lives completely around in a few months. We are more concerned that the Stay Stay concept becomes a long-term solution. In the long run, people deserve "real" housing like an apartment, not living in a storage shed. Even if the apartment is completely subsidized. "Real" housing raises self esteem and goes a long ways towards absorption back into main stream life.</p> <p>> Our bottom line is: we have a crisis in our community. If we're not part of the solution, we're part of the problem. We'd rather be part of the solution.</p>

	<p>> Best wishes,</p> <p>> Gail and Mike Cannady</p>
Email	
Dick Irvine	<p>I OWN A COMMERCIAL BUILDING AT 13TH AND COLUMBIA. I STRONGLY OPPOSE HAVING A CAMP SO CLOSE TO COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES. I HAVE PROBLEMS AT MY BUILDING WITH THE CURRENT POPULATION OF STREET PEOPLE WITHOUT ADDING A CAMP PROVIDING A GREATER POPULATION OF HOMELESS PEOPLE USING MY PROPERTY TO RELIEVE THEMSELFS.THROWING NEEDLES IN MY FLOWER BEDS. I HAD TO PULL TWO ATTRACTIVE BUSHES FROM MY PROPERTY THAT STREET PEOPLE USED TO HIDE WHILE USING MY PROPERTY AS A TOILET. THIS CAMP WILL INCREASE THE POPULATION AND WONT KEEP MORE STREET PEOPLE TO USE MY PROPERTY AS A TOILET. THEY ALSO ADD TO THE ALREADY RIME RATE IN THE AREA, IM AGAINST THE CAMP,</p>
Email	<p style="text-align: right;">19-Oct-22</p> <p>Good Day,</p> <p>My name is Cheryl Golliher and I reside at 400 W. 8th Street. This letter is in response to the safe stay project that I will be able to view from my third floor condominium at Heritage Place. This is my second response to voice my concerns...hoping this response to the project is more logical vs my knee jerk response last week.</p> <p>I purchased my condominium 5 years ago after saving for approx. 10 years for the property value was much greater being downtown than my home in more rural Clark County. I moved downtown due to the revitalization of the area, the safety and walkability, and the ability to get about without driving. It is the place I plan to age in. I am a 61 year old Registered Nurse for the Portland VA and not only is my condominium my home it is also my office where I work 9 hours per day, and yest my office window overlooks the vacant lot where the safe stay project is planned.</p> <p>I am now contemplating selling my property for several reasons. One major reason is the crime and filth and the feeling of no longer being safe to walk about my neighborhood. Several of my friends have said to me "you better get a concealed weapon permit" for your neighborhood will be going even further downhill if 50+ homeless folks move in next door. This is not the neighborhood I bought into just 5 years ago feeling 100% safe to walk about even after dark, well NO more do I have that safe feeling!! I have been verbally attacked by homeless, I have had my car broken into parked out in front of my unit on 9thstreet, I have had my new electric assist bike stolen out of our locked garage, and to top it all off I have been involved in mail fraud as well. And now you want to bring at least 50 more homeless people into my immediate neighborhood? I watch the homeless urinate in front of me, scream and yell obscenities, and park down below my balcony and camp out for weeks littering and spilling waste all over the street. Well I say we are already saturated with homeless people in my neighborhood so I say NO MORE!!! Take this shelter to another zip code!!</p>

	<p>WE currently have the Share House, a men’s shelter as well as dozens of homeless people living on our neighborhood streets and in the park. Most of the homeless folks who reside in my neighborhood will not get placed in this tiny home homeless camp (safe stay shelter)...no they are drug addicts and they will not qualify. Therefore, we will still have all the campers we currently have plus 50+ more. I say shame on the city and county for picking one of our busiest, up and coming neighborhoods for a homeless camp. What a perfect way to downgrade our most desirable neighborhoods. I ask you who will want to purchase my beautiful condo that looks down at a FEMA like tiny home village? NO ONE will that is the answer. And you say campers won’t be allowed to camp within 1000 ft of this tiny homeless village, well big deal 1000 ft is NOTHING, how about ½ mile!!! This statistic is almost laughable, but I am in no laughing mood right now!!!</p> <p>Take this FEMA tiny home like village and place it in another zip code on the bus line. We here in 98660 have our share of homeless neighbors already and you all are placing an even greater burden on those of us in this zip code. Again shame on the city and county.</p> <p>Cheryl Golliher,</p>
email	<p>As owner of 701 Columbia St #108 I'm 100% against the proposal.</p> <p>This is will make Esther Short Park a tent city within 3 months. my property value will tank 30-40%.</p> <p>I'm not paying property tax to have the government work against my personal interest. This is really UNFAIR. Extremely unfair to homeowners in the neighborhood.</p> <p>Extremely unfair proposal. Why not you move that project to the mayor's neighborhood park?</p> <p>Are you serious?</p>
Council Form Robert Rhodes	<p>I am a resident of Heritage Place Condominiums in downtown and I am writing to express my support for the Stay Safe shelter proposed for our neighborhood. I applaud the Council for its best practices approach to addressing homelessness by acknowledging the first step in helping a person transition from houselessness to stability is to get them safely housed. As a former Chair of the Council for the Homeless, I know that many people resist the thought of any services being located in their neighborhood. I am one member of the downtown community that will support this effort. Bob Rhodes</p>
Council Form	<p>Good morning, I wanted to make a comment on our growing homeless presence within the City. It's very concerning that tents are being set up on sidewalks and the amount of waste that accompanies these sites. Even this morning on my way to work there is a tent on the sidewalk completely blocking the walkway and into the road and a big pile of trash along with this tent. I am told City property is open for camping overnight. How can this be when all the City parks have no overnight camping? Is there action being taken to protect our beautiful city from this failure? Thank you, Breeanne Jordan</p>

Jordan	
Email Chad Burton	<p>I would like to RSVP to the 11/3 session regarding the Safe Stay site.</p> <p>I am very against having this site. My building was lit on fire by a homeless person in May 2020. It took me 16 months to get rebuilt.</p> <p>I have constant trespassing issues (see attached from 2 days ago) and the building next to me has been broken into several times in the last 2 years since the homeless issue has gotten worse. The last thing we need a “draw” to have more homeless in an area of business.</p> <p>The city should be protecting the business that provide tax revenue.</p>
Email Phil Schofield	<p>I represent the Schofield Group LLC which owns and leases five commercial properties on Main Street in Vancouver. Two of these are at 1000 Main and 1014 Main. These two properties are the home to four very successful businesses (our tenants) that are very close to your proposed Safe Stay homeless community site at 415 W 11th St. Our family business was started in 1865 and has been passed down through the family generations for almost 160 years. I have been the managing member for the Schofield Group LLC since 2009.</p> <p>We have worked tirelessly and at great expense to offer safe and inviting commercial spaces for all of our tenants, and we are all too familiar with the many problems resulting from the homeless populations that are decimating the longtime commercial business cores like that of downtown Portland. This is a nearby example you should have learned from. Our company understands the need the homeless population has for safe shelter but surely there is another more appropriate parcel of land where you could locate this homeless “Safe Stay Community” not three blocks from our city’s longtime central downtown commercial / business core.</p> <p>The Schofield Group LLC strongly objects to this poorly conceived plan which will result in serious negative impacts for the future of the downtown Vancouver commercial shopping district. Please think farther into the future.</p> <p>Phil Schofield / Managing Member Mary Schofield Remke & Teresa Schofield Coon / members The Schofield Group LLC</p>
Email Sallie Reavey	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My husband and I own the Briar Rose Inn bed and breakfast across the street from the proposed site. We purchased our home in 1997 with the intention of renovating it and eventually creating a bed and breakfast.</p>

	<p>It took us nine years to do the work ourselves as we did not have funds to hire people. We finally opened our Inn in 2006 and have enjoyed the business. As I planned for our retirement, this income is critical to our life. Can you image loosing your pension and social security when you are ready to retire? This is what we are looking at currently. All our hard work and dreams will be washed away.</p> <p>We have guests who visit Vancouver from around the country and sometimes from foreign countries. This is not the image I want for our clients. Many times they are here to explore the possibilities of retirement. We assist them in that exploration. It would be an embarrassment to have them here and to view a homeless camp in this lovely historic neighborhood.</p> <p>This is not the proper location in this downtown core. Everyone has worked hard to develop the downtown into what it has now become. Please do not spoil this area and turn us into Portland. I warn our guests about going into Portland so they are aware of the crime.</p> <p>We will all start moving away, little by little downtown will erode into a ghetto, or a Portland.</p> <p>The city would benefit more by creating residential housing that would better suit that lot and provide tax revenue. This will be discussed with Michael Lynch.</p> <p>I am not familiar with the workings of the City Counsel. It has been shocking to me to learn that no one believes what the city says they will do. There is NO credibility! I will be remembering the names of the council members who vote in favor of this site. When election time rolls around, I will campaign furiously for their opponent.</p> <p>Simply put, the city needs to find another location...this is the wrong place. I am stunned that elected official cannot do better than this.</p> <p>Sallie Reavey</p>
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Email	To Kerry Peck and the Vancouver City Council:
Teresa Coon	<p>As a downtown Vancouver business owner who will be adversely affected by your actions, I am writing to express my extreme disappointment and opposition to the Vancouver City Councils' and the Lynch estate's plans to convert the downtown city lot at 415 W. 11th Street into a "Safe Stay Community."</p> <p>Downtown Vancouver is finally coming into its own; you could say it is thriving. And now this. Along with the beautification project being proposed for Main Street, it feels like a double-whammy is being thrown at the businesses in downtown Vancouver. What do you think will happen when Main Street becomes a pedestrian-friendly area with nice, wide sidewalks and no parking? According to your own plans, the homeless not accepted into the Stay Safe Community will be pushed 1,000 feet from the site. They will find ample space to loiter/camp on the beautiful new Main Street sidewalks. With no parking, along with an increase in homeless interactions, customers will instead drive and park at The Waterfront or the malls. But I'm sure the Council was well aware of this before making their decision . . .</p>

Why does the Vancouver City Council think that this will turn out differently than the experiments in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, San Diego and our neighbor Portland? They all have larger budgets than Vancouver and their efforts have fallen short – and worse.

And then there is the liability issue. No court will recognize indemnity for Council members or members of the Edward C. Lynch estate for actions you took while having full knowledge the harm your actions will cause.

I urge you to reconsider your decision. Although, through conversations with other downtown business owners, it seems be a done deal – with further discussions falling on deaf ears. Turn the vacant lot into a wonderful urban park for all people, instead of fenced-off area that is guaranteed to become a public nuisance. Dedicate and memorialize the park to Edward C. Lynch and his family as a tribute to his life, instead of making it a point of contention and division in downtown Vancouver, courtesy of the Lynch family.

Sincerely,
Teresa Schofield Coon
Schofield Group LLC

Janis Raffauf Hess

Dear Ms. Peck,

I'm writing for a last-minute weigh-in on the proposed Stay Safe Community at 415 W. 11th Street in downtown Vancouver.

I live about 3 blocks from the site in an apartment building on Esther Street — this is my neighborhood. There's a "soup kitchen" that provides meals for homeless people right down the block and an ever-changing number of people camped out along Mill Plain or living in improvised shelters by the Courthouse, and many roaming the streets and sleeping in the bushes or doorways at night. My heart goes out to these people.


I can understand the misgivings of those who are against a planned community for the homeless, but I feel that those folks are reacting out of fear and I strongly believe that a Stay Safe Community would solve so many more problems than it would cause. Why would someone prefer having the homeless roaming the streets of their neighborhood looking for a place to get out of the rain and cold over providing these same people with a structured, supervised drug- and alcohol-free, safe place to stay while they're given assistance to find a way out of their situation? Why would anyone prefer to "put up with the mess" as it is, rather than find a cleaner and safer solution? These people are human beings with basic needs for food and shelter. How they came to be in their predicament is not for us to individually judge; rather to work together as a community to find a solution to the problem. I believe these Stay Safe Communities are an excellent way to try to help.

I'm all for this community. I will feel SAFER, myself, knowing that these people have been given sanctuary and help in my neighborhood as opposed to having them on the streets at night. (And yes, I go out alone every single night to walk my dog.)

On one final note, I am hoping that should this Stay Safe Community be approved, some sort of consideration will be given to the owners of the Bed and Breakfast that's adjacent to the property. I don't really have an answer for their concerns about the impact on their business aside from a more positive attitude, (a privacy fence? Tax write off?) but I do hope that their concerns and fears will be heard and addressed.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to put in my two cents worth.

Very truly yours,

Janis 

Janis Raffauf Hess