

From: Mary Widiner
[Mary@walpolecpa.com] **Sent:** Monday,
August 03, 2020 12:26 PM **To:** Vyto
Adomaitis; Jaime Shaw
Cc: 'Rob Widiner'
Subject: Housing Authority / Homekey Program Grant application - comments

Dear Vito / Jaime:

I rec'd the text of the meeting tomorrow, August 4th, for the "pending" Homekey program grant.

My husband, Rob Widiner, and I live on La Patera Lane @ Goleta and are writing in to SUPPORT the City's application for the Homekey program (for the purchase of the Super 8 Motel for temp/supportive housing AND also permanent housing for the homeless community).

Given the 2 recent fires on Hwy 101, and the general health/unsanitary conditions stemming from living on the streets, we support this SAFE and STRUCTURED alternative.

I like that the County's Behavior Wellness group will have involvement plus the on-site security guard presence (to protect ALL the residents living there and the community).

It is heartbreaking to see the homeless in our community, especially women who I feel are even more vulnerable in this situation, and I admire your pro-active actions on chasing down this grant.

My husband and I have some familiarity with this population. We are conservators of his brother, John, who is 59 years old and was on the verge of being homeless (due to mental health issues and not being able to keep a steady job). John's housing is now stabilized, he meets the financial criteria (for low income housing) of the SB Community Housing Corp, and he is receiving counseling from the County's Behavior Wellness Group. John's personality is unpredictable and he refuses to take any medication, but we are doing our best to create stability for him under those circumstances – just having a place for him to live is a huge relief for his family.

Hopefully the Goleta Council and the citizens of Goleta also understand this dynamic - this is an EXCELLENT first step, but it is not a PERMANENT solution to the homeless situation. When you create an environment with "rules and behavioral expectations" (that are required for general safety), there will be some who do not want to accept this option. In our opinion, though, this project is a HUGE positive step in the right direction.

Once this project is approved and finalized, perhaps a non profit entity could be created to assist with future operational costs (so the broader community can continue supporting it).

Regards,
Mary



Mary Widiner
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Thank you.

From: [Jennifer Smith](#)
To: [City Clerk Group](#); [Roger Aceves](#); [Paula Perotte](#); [James Kyriaco](#); [Stuart Kasdin](#); [Kyle Richards](#)
Subject: Tuesday 8/4 meeting, Item A.1, 20-277 - support
Date: Monday, August 03, 2020 5:24:28 PM

Dear Mayor Perotte and Councilmembers,

I write in strong support of the Project Homekey grant proposal and urge the city to send a letter in support of the County Housing Authority's project application.

We know that the issue of people experiencing homelessness remains a major challenge in Santa Barbara County (see [2020 Point in Time County data](#)) and it is expected that housing insecurity will only get worse due to the COVID-19 crisis. Goleta residents know that homelessness is not just a "Santa Barbara" problem. We have unsheltered neighbors along the US 101, out on the Ellwood bluffs, and in other parts of our city. Our unsheltered neighbors are at greater risk of early death than their sheltered counterparts. These unprecedented times call for unprecedented solutions.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, permanent supportive housing is a critical solution for helping to end chronic homelessness:

<https://endhomelessness.org/ending-homelessness/solutions/permanent-supportive-housing/>

According to the recent Grand Jury report, permanent supportive housing in Santa Barbara County is lacking.

<http://www.sbcgj.org/2020/homeless.pdf>

This proposal furthers many of the requested goals/outcomes in the recent grand jury report and also appears to be consistent with the city's draft Homelessness Plan.

I agree with the staff recommendation to conduct as much outreach on this project as possible, both to nearby Old Town businesses and to residents. Outreach is a real challenge in the current climate - I am not sure if there is a budget available for flyers/mailings, but if so I strongly support some sort of additional outreach measure beyond just email. Non-profit partners may also be a resource to help get the word out about the project.

Thank you for your continued service to Goleta residents during this difficult time.

Jennifer R. Smith
7391 Chapman Place #B
Goleta, CA 93117

From: [Lauren LaRose](#)
To: [City Clerk Group](#)
Subject: Aug 4 Meeting Comment
Date: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 10:17:11 AM

Hello - I would like this read into the record, please.

Thank you for your hard work during these challenging times.

I'm a home owner in Old Town Goleta. I heard that under Newsom's order that we are looking to purchase a motel to permanently house the homeless. I am in favor of housing the homeless, but I do not agree that the Motel 6 on Hollister and Fairview is the right location. Old Town Goleta is set for revival. We own a brand new condominium on Ekwill and Kellogg. The city of Goleta is planning to open Kellogg all the way to Fairview in the coming years.

Can you please consider a motel that won't impact the future of Old Town Goleta? There are a lot of us in the new development, 175 families and most with children. We want to keep them safe and help the economy of Old Town. It's already difficult enough not having a safe bike path for our children to access the beach and we look forward to the improvements scheduled for Old Town Goleta.

Thank you,
Lauren LaRose
5661 Ekwill Street Unit 101
Goleta, CA 93117

From: orders.copyrightsb.com
To: [City Clerk Group](#)
Subject: Fw: Special Meeting - Homeless facility
Date: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 9:41:31 AM

From: orders.copyrightsb.com <orders@copyrightsb.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 9:14 AM
To: DLOPEZ@CITYOFGOLETA.ORG <DLOPEZ@CITYOFGOLETA.ORG>
Subject: Special Meeting - Homeless facility

Updated draft

From: phebe <phebe@phebemansur.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 11:33 PM
To: dlopez@cityoffoleta.org <dlopez@cityoffoleta.org>
Subject: Special Meeting - Homeless facility

This is for the special city council meeting scheduled for Tuesday August 4th at 1 p.m. Please read aloud.

Dear mayor and city council,
I laud your desire to help those in need.

Many of us, at one point in time or another in our lives, have found ourselves in the position of needing a hand up. When one finds oneself in difficult situations where one is unable to move passed and move forward, the generous support from others is a God-send.

I appreciate the opportunity to express my views. My name is Phebe Mansur. I am a Goleta Old Town resident and business owner.

Monday morning I had a conversation with a client who mentioned that she had stopped volunteering for homeless organizations because she felt that her efforts contributed to enabling their homelessness.

I have personally assisted many homeless over the years. And not one was interested in changing their lifestyle. All of them with the exception of two, had their hands out so they could continue their chosen lifestyle. At what point does the giving become enabling? "Give a man a fish and he eats for a day; teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime."

Old Town Businesses have reported that clients do not want to come to Old Town because of the homeless. We already have difficulties with the small number of homeless we already have in Goleta Old Town and now you are proposing to import more?

It is a miracle that any business is able to keep their doors open amidst the CCP virus lockdown.

We, the businesses in your city, are in need. We need the city council to be advocating to the county and state to reopen Now and not chasing after potential grant funds to help pay salaries during the slowdown. Fight for reopening. Fight for your businesses here and now before we are all gone.

I urge the council to consider other options to generate revenue.

Phebe Mansur

From: [Deborah Lopez](#)
To: [David Cutaia](#); [Liana Campos](#)
Subject: FW: Support for Homeless Transition Center
Date: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 9:03:43 AM

From: Kristen LaBonte [mailto:kristenlabonte@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 8:42 AM
To: Deborah Lopez <dlopez@cityofgoleta.org>
Subject: Support for Homeless Transition Center

Hello,

I have read that you are proposing the purchase of the Super 8 motel to convert it into a transition center for houseless people. I think it's a great idea, especially if you can use it specifically to help our houseless population that is local. We have many folks that are living near the train tracks that could greatly benefit from this.

Thank you,
Kristen LaBonte
Armitos Ave.
Old Town Goleta

From: joorayman@aol.com
To: [City Clerk Group](#)
Subject: Homeless housing
Date: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 11:18:59 AM

Thomas Johov
joorayman@aol.com

Goleta has always been and continues to be the dumping grounds for the county and city of Santa Barbara. Now a homeless shelter is being proposed for the corner of Hollister Ave, and Fairview Ave. If you as the city council do not oppose this consideration, you're less intelligent then you already appear to be.

There are homeless encampments along both side of the freeway and under the overpasses. Have you already forgotten that recently two fires set in these hovels were extinguished, but not before businesses on the north side of the highway had to be evacuated and the freeway was closed causing a traffic snarl on all frontage roads? To clean out these encampments city and county workers have to go in these areas in HAZMAT suits and risk diseases ranging from Hanta virus, tuberculosis, hepatitis, cholera, typhus, to who knows what else.

And now you want to bring this to Hollister Ave? Great. Your intentions while altruistic are completely unrealistic. The creators of this plan claim there will be rules and regulations for the CLIENTS of this facility. These people are not clients, they are tenants getting benefits paid for by the taxpayers of Goleta. History has shown that in most cases these tenants do not want to abide by the rules that are required.

Wake up Goleta City Council, State St. in downtown Santa Barbara is dead, it's a corpse that is not going to be revived. Is it your intention to do that to the Hollister Ave. business community? Why don't you do something helpful and get the revenue neutrality repealed. Stop being a disappointment and oppose this development.,

Thomas Johovic,
Owner, Goleta Jewelers
5792 Hollister Ave.
Goleta CA 93117

From: Shayna Ingram [<mailto:slingram@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 11:32 AM

To: Deborah Lopez <dlopez@cityofgoleta.org>

Subject: Super 8

Hi there,

I read that the Super 8 might be purchase to house homeless people. I think this is a great idea and a service to our community.

Best,
Shayna

From: Julie Ritter [<mailto:juliesfriends@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 1:20 PM

To: Deborah Lopez <dlopez@cityofgoleta.org>

Subject: Fwd: Virtual Link for Special Goleta City Council Meeting About to Begin at 1:00

I greatly opposed converting the Super 8 Motel into a homeless facility.

I don't want one anywhere within the city and county limits of Santa Barbara **NOR** Goleta.

You're making our area too attractive. They'll never rehabilitate if you keep providing all of their needs and services.

Julie Ritter

From: [Deborah Lopez](#)
To: [Liana Campos](#); [David Cutaia](#)
Subject: FW: Super 8 Conversion
Date: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:39:18 PM
Importance: High

-----Original Message-----

From: JOYCE STEVENS [<mailto:tkd2dan@verizon.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:11 PM
To: Deborah Lopez <dlopez@cityofgoleta.org>
Subject: Super 8 Conversion
Importance: High

As a resident who has lived in Goleta since 1959, I have seen the many changes that have taken place, Highway 101 was 2 lanes, there was a drive-in, small shacks lined Hollister where the fruit pickers lived.

Conversion to a homeless center is not one I would support, unless this is a monitored situation for occupants and community by guards, mental health and physical health, smoking, drinking and open cooking regulations.

Not far from this hotel there have been multiple fires set by the homeless encampments. Is the city going to guarantee that these encampments are going to be removed completely from the Goleta by the change of the Super 8?

Will the Goleta Sheriff be able to patrol for the business in the area to prevent break-ins?

Joyce Stevens

From: Ravid Raphael [rraphael@twodancers.net]

Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 12:25 AM

To: Kyle Richards

Subject: Re: Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara's application for the State of California Homekey Program

Dear Mayor Perotte and Council Members,

We support the City of Goleta sending a letter in support of the Homekey Program at the Motel 8 property.

This program would fill an important need in our community, particularly as homeless people in Goleta would be prioritized. This will also reduce the health and safety hazards of homeless encampments.

It is also reassuring that there will be 24/7 presence of both resident monitors and security.

We hope that the grant is awarded and the program is successful.

Sincerely,

Ravid and Arlene Raphael

From: [Deborah Lopez](#)
To: [David Cutaia](#)
Subject: FW: Super8 conversion to homeless center
Date: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 4:12:52 PM

From: Linda Melsher [mailto:lmelsher@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 2:50 PM
To: Deborah Lopez <dlopez@cityofgoleta.org>
Subject: Super8 conversion to homeless center

Roaming homeless will kill what's left of Goleta business. It would become like downtown and no one would want to be in the area unless absolutely necessary. Homelessness isn't one thing. It's a collection of at least 4 types of people, each with their own needs and bringing much different attitudes and behavior to an area. There are the literally crazies who need custodial care, the addicts whether drugs or booze, tramps and hobos who expect someone else to support them, and finally, those down on their luck who need job training and an education in how to manage money. The first three categories are too erratic and possibly dangerous to bring into our area. No amount of housing will make a difference: That doesn't touch their core problem.

Another problem is that because of our pleasant climate, we draw homeless from all over. The number of homeless state-wide is about 40% of the total homeless population. If the situation gets worse, expect an incoming population like the Dust Bowl brought. There's no way to keep up with it, only an increase in fires, thefts at a larger scale than we now suffer.

I don't know what the answer is, but it *isn't* turn Goleta into Chase Palm Park & the downtown library.

From: [Deborah Lopez](#)
To: [City Clerk Group](#)
Subject: FW: Homeless Hotel
Date: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 5:47:13 PM

From: Win Oakley [mailto:win@winoakley.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 5:42 PM
To: Deborah Lopez <dlopez@cityofgoleta.org>
Subject: Homeless Hotel

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Good Afternoon,

I would like to add my comment to the discussion.

State Street Santa Barbara was a beautiful place to shop and eat out, etc. Visitors came from far away to walk the pavement. Then the homeless took it over and one had to step over the bodies of sleeping people.

Fast forward to today and I have not been downtown Santa Barbara in over 10 years.

Okay, you say they will be staying in the hotel – for how long? What about the sick people mixing with other folks in the ‘hotel? Can you secure their safety?

I do believe a lot of thought needs to be given to this plan.

For my opinion –

I stopped believing in the tooth fairy a long, long time ago!

What about some nice little beach cabins for individuals in the Goleta Beach area?

By the way have you seen the garbage on the 101 near the SBA homeless area? (you may have to stop renovating Old Town now and save some money.)

Win Oakley
5663 Via Salerno
Goleta CA 93117
Ph: 805 683 0628
Email: Win@WinOakley.com