

From: [Dana Brown-Davis](#)
To: [Kristi Felbinger](#)
Subject: FW: Homeless Strategies Workgroup - Site G
Date: Thursday, February 15, 2018 12:37:08 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Whatcom Environmental Homeless Strategies Workgroup Letter.pdf](#)

From: Harold Cashman [mailto:hjcashman@whatcomenvironmental.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 10:35 AM
To: Jack Louws; Barry Buchanan; Rud Browne; alice@downtownbellingham.com; Guy@bellingham.com; mayorsoffice@cob.org; mlilliquist@cob.org; dchamill@cob.org; michael_parker@whatcomhsc.org; robinm@nwys.org; dchamill@cob.org; michael_parker@whatcomhsc.org; robinm@nwys.org; hanse@thelighthousemission.org
Cc: tsundin@cob.org; Dana Brown-Davis
Subject: Homeless Strategies Workgroup - Site G

Homeless Strategies Workgroup Members:

I am a business owner/operator located near the Homeless Strategies Workgroup Site G – York/Champion/RR/State. I believe that Site G is not an acceptable site for the proposed 200 bed easy access shelter. Please review the attached letter which describes my concerns.
Thank you

Harold Cashman

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February 15, 2018

Homeless Strategies Workgroup
Bellingham City Council
Whatcom County Council
Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive
Kelly Linville, City of Bellingham Mayor
Bellingham, WA 98225

**RE: 200 Bed Easy Access Shelter - Site G (Block Bounded by York, Champion, Railroad,
and State Streets)**

Dear Homeless Strategies Workgroup:

I am writing you to express my and my employees concerns regarding the consideration of Site G as a possible location for a 200-bed easy-access shelter. Our business (Whatcom Environmental Services Inc) is located at 228 E. Champion Street in the Fussner Building, directly across the street from Site G. As you know our neighborhood is comprised of a mix of residential housing and professional, retail, and restaurant businesses.

When the Rainbow Center was formerly located next to Site G we witnessed dangerous behavior including drinking and drug use in the Site G parking lot. The loitering people and their behavior made our employees feel unsafe when entering or leaving our office.

The number of people loitering in the parking lot has decreased significantly since the closure of the Rainbow Center, and the area has seen a decrease in illegal behavior. We do have issues with loitering individuals associated with the WTA bus station, and we do have to routinely pick up broken bottles, beer cans, cigarette butts and other trash discarded by WTA customers. We know that if the 200-bed easy access shelter were constructed at Site G our neighborhood would be negatively impacted by additional people practicing unsafe behaviors, which would affect the safety of our employees and customers.

We strongly believe that Site D located at 600 West Holly Street is currently a much more appropriate location for the easy-access shelter. In the January 18, 2018 Site Ranking Exercise one Con (Possible Negative Impact) for Site D is listed as "Incompatible with 2008 Old Town Sub-Area Plan that calls for 1000 units of housing and 4000 feet of commercial." Our neighborhood already has multiple housing units and commercial businesses; therefore, our neighborhood uses are incompatible with the easy access shelter. If the shelter is incompatible with *potential* future housing and commercial uses, it is definitely incompatible with the current housing and commercial uses already prospering in our neighborhood.

We understand the need to assist Bellingham's homeless population, however we strongly believe that the Site G location is a poor choice for a 200-bed easy access shelter, and we request that it be removed from further consideration by the Homeless Strategies Workgroup.

Sincerely,



Harold Cashman
President, Whatcom Environmental Services