

From: [Justin Nickels](#)
To: [Paul Braun](#); [Jennifer Bartz](#)
Subject: FW: External: The Neighborhood Support
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2024 9:26:51 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

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Mayor Justin M. Nickels

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From: Mark LeGreve <mark.legreve@sfamanitowoc.org>

Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 8:52 AM

To: Justin Nickels <jnickels@manitowoc.org>; Bill Schlei <bschlei@manitowoc.org>; Todd Reckelberg <treckelberg@manitowoc.org>; Brett Norell <BNorell@manitowoc.org>; Tim Boldt <tboldt@manitowoc.org>; Eric Sitkiewitz - D6 <esitkiewitz@manitowoc.org>; William DeBaets <WDeBaets@manitowoc.org>; James Brey - D4 <jbrey@manitowoc.org>; Michael Cummings <mcummings@manitowoc.org>; Chad Beeman <cbeeman@manitowoc.org>

Subject: External: The Neighborhood Support

You don't often get email from mark.legreve@sfamanitowoc.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Council Members,

I write on behalf of myself personally, The Haven of Manitowoc County, and St Francis of Assisi Parish. I live at 1210 Westwood Lane here in Manitowoc. I am the founder of The Haven, a current board member of The Haven, a board member of The Neighborhood, and Business Manager / Deacon at St Francis of Assisi Parish. I am an on call chaplain with Holy Family Hospital and local law enforcement in both cases where I serve alongside Pastor Matt Sauer. I am also a former board member of Prevent Suicide Manitowoc. I write in support of the efforts requested for the McKinley building.

The three organizations creating The Neighborhood are trusted and respectable members of the community who have demonstrated close working relationships with the City of Manitowoc and the greater community. The growing housing crisis created by market forces beyond our control requires a community response. With greater profits in vacation rental properties over apartment rentals we are seeing fewer apartments available. With construction costs increasing our local developers are creating new housing that is primarily at the luxury or larger home spectrum. In

talking with developers they are selling many of their new developments to sunbirds or retirees who are purchasing 2nd homes here to spend the summers. These market forces are creating a supply demand effect of rapidly increasing rental costs. Apartments which were \$800/month earlier in the year are now \$1300. These are all great for tourism and a testament to the benefits of living in Manitowoc. The difficulty is that many of our lower income residents are being priced out of places to live. Our working class is at risk of not having adequate affordable housing. This is a large reason why these three non profits are joining forces to do what we can. To start providing affordable housing.

The concerns about the homeless people which we serve being dangerous criminals has zero credible evidence. I am not aware of any significant issue in the past 20 years created by any of our three organizations. Keep in mind that most of our volunteers are retired females. The volunteer safely and securely. We look out for them. We look out for the community by who we house and the rules / guidelines which we enforce.

Our efforts contribute to assisting in walking with those most in need. Our past residents have become successful and contributing members of our community.

Please give us a chance. The conditional use permit process has terms which can be reviewed annually which we need to live up to. Please give us a chance to change the stigma of poverty and homelessness.

Regards,
Dcn Mark LeGreve
cell 920-860-0174

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Blessings,



Deacon Mark LeGreve
Business Manager



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“Your vocation in life is where your greatest joy meets the world's greatest need.”, Frederick Buechner

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