

**From:** [Justin Nickels](#)  
**To:** [Paul Braun](#); [Jennifer Bartz](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for Proposed Expansion of Existing Warming Shelter and Transitional Housing at McKinley Location (1010 Huron)  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 9:08:29 AM

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**From:** Charlie Russell <charlie.russell@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2024 11:36 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>; Brett Vanderkin <bvanderkin@manitowoc.org>

**Subject:** External: Strong Support for Proposed Expansion of Existing Warming Shelter and Transitional Housing at McKinley Location (1010 Huron)

You don't often get email from [charlie.russell@gmail.com](mailto:charlie.russell@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Council Members

I am writing today to express my wholehearted support for the proposed expansion of the existing warming shelter and transitional housing facility in our neighborhood at the McKinley location (1010 Huron). As a resident in the neighborhood and concerned community member, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact this valuable resource has had on both the individuals it serves and the broader community.

I understand that some concerns have been raised regarding potential negative impacts on family safety and property values. I want to assure you all that my own experiences and observations contradict these fears. In fact, I believe that the existence of the warming shelter and transitional housing has had a net positive effect on our neighborhood.

Firstly, I would like to address the issue of family safety. Since the opening of the existing facility, I have not experienced any increase in crime or disorder in my vicinity. In fact, I have observed an increased police presence in the area due to collaborative efforts between law enforcement and shelter staff to ensure the continued safety and well-being of all community members. The expansion of these services will only serve to strengthen these partnerships and enhance the overall safety of our neighborhood.

Regarding property values, I have also not noticed any significant decline in my own or my neighbors' properties since the warming shelter was established. In fact, some anecdotal evidence suggests that the presence of this essential service has actually contributed to increased stability and vitality in the area. It would be nice to have someone at the McKinley property that will maintain it. In recent years it has become an eyesore and fallen into disrepair, with weeds, and lack of property maintenance it has started to become somewhat dilapidated. I would prefer not to have another situation where the property sits empty for years similar to the mall site.

The proposed expansion of the privately funded warming shelter and transitional housing seems like a WIN-WIN as it will help ensure that our neighbors have access to essential services and resources during their time of need and will also allow a vacant eyesore property to be utilized and maintained. By doing so, we can build a stronger, more resilient neighborhood where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

I urge you all to approve this proposal with enthusiasm and confidence, knowing that it aligns with the values of compassion, and care that define our community. Together, let us continue to make our neighborhood a place where all members can live with dignity and security. I would ask you to think of this as an investment in the future of Manitowoc that costs taxpayers nothing.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to seeing the positive impacts of this expansion in the near future.

Sincerely,

Charlie Russell  
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