

To whom it concerns.

I am writing to you on behalf of support for the McKinly building being used to help our homeless problem in our community. We have a huge homeless issue in our community. There is a lack of affordable housing. The shelters are full. The warming shelter often has to turn people away. This should never be the case for anyone who has fallen on hard times.

I am in support of using the building for about 26 beds. This from my understanding is the average amount of beds that are full every night when the warming shelter is open. I believe that allowing the rest of the building to be used for affordable housing would be wonderful. This would help those who are fallen on hard times be able to get into housing that they can afford. I fully support this project and will contribute in anyway I can.

With that, I would like to share a little story on why this project means so much to me. I have an 8 year old child, he has a heart of gold. The last two years we have drove down the street and have seen many people sleeping outside. It was cold, windy, rainy, and just horrible weather but that did not matter they were outside waiting for the shelter to open. Sometimes we would drive past at 1 pm in the afternoon many hours before the shelter was open. These people had to sit outside hours a day just to get a bed. Once a week my son who is 8 years old and I would stop, we would bring several things to people. We have done food, hand warmers, blankets, and some crafts for them to do. Every single one of them were grateful and we always had one lady who asked to give me and my son a hug. This is not just a one off thing that happened for us this is a everyday thing. Having to turn someone away is difficult. Having to explain to a 8 year old boy that there is nothing more I can do to help these people is sad. We need options for these people.

As a community we need to come together. We need to help those who need help, we never know if it could be us. We simply do not have enough resources to help with affordable housing in Manitowoc. People are struggling as a community it is the right thing to do to support this project and approve! Please think of others and think where your life could be and please approve this project.