

January 10, 2021

To: Fort Bragg City Council

From: Paul Davis, Interim Executive Director, Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center

CC: Tabatha Miller, MCHC Board of Directors

RE: Coast Winter Shelter Comments, FB City Council Meeting January 11, 2021

Dear Council Members,

I want to express my gratitude to the council for your efforts to assist MCHC in getting the annual Winter Shelter off the ground this year and to help ensure that it is operable through the winter.

I understand that the council will be considering possible locations for the Winter Shelter to be hosted from February 15 through March 31, 2021 and that the possibility of using the Hospitality Center at 101 N Franklin Street will be part of the discussion. I am writing today to shed some light on why this will not be possible.

This location currently houses Transitional Housing residents who are legally rent paying tenants for up to two years – this comes with certain rights under their rental agreement, including the use of our courtyard, which would be an issue if the easement from their units to the courtyard is occupied with cots and additional people. While Transitional Housing residents do use the courtyard during normal business hours when other clientele is present on the property, they have unfettered access to the space from 3:PM each day through 8:AM the following day, and the trip to the courtyard space always is safe and clear.

Additionally, the facilities that we have considered this season, and the facility we are using now are being used almost exclusively for Winter Shelter purposes and therefore we do not have to breakdown and set up fixtures like cots each day. If we were to use the Hospitality Center for hosting the Winter Shelter, we would have to move furniture and fixtures used for Hospitality Center operations each day, set up cots and other Winter Shelter fixtures, and then reverse the process each morning. Not only is this time consuming, but MCHC has limited storage capacity at the 101 N Franklin site AND it leaves a lot of room for mistakes when sanitizing both sets of furniture and fixtures for next use, which we felt to be a safety issue. It should be understood that this site has limited space that could conceivably be used for Winter Shelter sleeping purposes, and less so considering the spacing restrictions imposed by COVID-19 shelter protocols.

Staging the Winter Shelter check-in and transportation from the Hospitality Center this year has so far proven to be an acceptable emergency alternative to staging at the Fort Bragg Food Bank, mostly because we are able to provide complimentary services to Winter Shelter utilizers and because we have organized the staging in such a way that we can begin transport by 4:PM and have the Winter Shelter utilizers out and to the host site by 5: PM. Our agency is contracted to provide numerous non-shelter programs and services which happen at 101 N Franklin Street and MCHC must be able to deliver those services as normal. Having the Winter Shelter on site at the Hospitality Center approximately 18 hours/day will most certainly impede our ability to do that.

It is for these reasons that MCHC is unable to host the Winter Shelter overnight at 101 N Franklin Street and why we are and have been seeking alternative locations for the second half of the season.

Sincerely –

Paul Davis

MCHC

From: [Andy Wellspring](#)
To: [Norvell, Bernie](#); [Albin-Smith, Tess](#); [Morsell-Haye, Jessica](#); [Peters, Lindy](#); [Lemos, June](#)
Subject: Use a public building to house the homeless this winter
Date: Monday, January 11, 2021 6:20:39 AM

Dear City Council,

I recently learned that it is not yet officially determined that the winter homeless shelter is able to use a public building for its operations this year. Thank you very much for approving the funds to raise the pay and get the shelter staffed, that is so important.

Now please take the next step and approve the use of a public building, either the CV Starr Center or Old Rec Center, to complete this much needed program.

I heard there is an inaccuracy in the agenda item tonight regarding the shelter, it wrongly states that the Hospitality Center could use one of its own facilities. This makes it all the more important to use a public building. We all have to support each other, and providing shelter for the most vulnerable people in our society is such an important way to do so.

Thank you,
Andy Wellspring

From: [Sydney Grange](#)
To: [Norvell, Bernie](#); [Albin-Smith, Tess](#); [Morsell-Haye, Jessica](#); [Peters, Lindy](#)
Cc: [Lemos, June](#)
Subject: Winter Shelter
Date: Sunday, January 10, 2021 11:44:17 PM

Dear City Council,

I support providing shelter to the most vulnerable in our community through utilizing either the Rec Center or CV Starr as a temporary winter shelter. It would be a wonderful and important use for some currently unused spaces. Thanks so much for your time!

Best,
Sydney Grange
Fort Bragg Resident

From: [Bess Naima Donley](#)
To: [Norvell, Bernie](#); [Albin-Smith, Tess](#); [Morsell-Haye, Jessica](#); [Peters, Lindy](#); jlemos@fotbragg.com; [Lemos, June](#)
Subject: Homeless winter shelter
Date: Sunday, January 10, 2021 10:03:08 PM

Hello everyone,

I am writing in support of using either the Rec Center Or C.V. Starr for the Winter Shelter for our homeless population.

Please approve one of them for the temporary Winter Shelter while they are not being used. I thank each of you for your hard work and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bess Donley

From: [Will Stedden](#)
To: [Peters, Lindy](#); [Norvell, Bernie](#); [Albin-Smith, Tess](#); [Morsell-Haye, Jessica](#)
Cc: [Lemos, June](#)
Subject: Support CV Starr or the rec center for the winter shelter
Date: Sunday, January 10, 2021 9:28:34 PM

Dear Fort Bragg city council members,

I recently learned that there has been some issues finding a location for the winter shelter. I just wanted to let you all know that I support the use of either the rec center or CV Starr as a location.

Please approve one of them for the temporary shelter.

Thanks,
Will Stedden

From: [Linda Jupiter](#)
To: [Norvell, Bernie](#); [Albin-Smith, Tess](#); [Morsell-Haye, Jessica](#); [Peters, Lindy](#)
Cc: [Lemos, June](#)
Subject: Winter Shelter
Date: Sunday, January 10, 2021 5:19:34 PM

Dear City Council members,

In order to protect the most vulnerable in our community during the most strenuous weather, I support the use of either the Rec Center or C.V. Starr for the Winter Shelter. Please approve one of them for the temporary Winter Shelter while they are not being used.

Thank you,
Linda Jupiter
Fort Bragg

Uninvited dweller on Northern Pomo land

From: [Dale](#)
To: [Norvell, Bernie](#); [Albin-Smith, Tess](#); [Morsell-Haye, Jessica](#); [Peters, Lindy](#); [Lemos, June](#)
Subject: Severe Weather Shelter
Date: Sunday, January 10, 2021 11:48:38 AM

I support the use of either the Rec Center Or C.V. Starr for the Winter Shelter. It is a shame to have those buildings being empty while people have no place to get out of the cold. Please approve one of them for the temporary Winter Shelter while they are not being used.



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Judy Stavely](#)
To: [Norvell, Bernie](#); [Albin-Smith, Tess](#); [Morsell-Haye, Jessica](#); [Peters, Lindy](#); [Lemos, June](#)
Subject: Winter Shelter
Date: Sunday, January 10, 2021 11:15:08 AM

Hello,

I support the use of either the Starr center or the Rec. center for the Winter Shelter. The shelter must happen. It's cold out there!

Sincerely, Judy Stavely (50 year resident of Mendocino County)

From: [Miller, Tabatha](#)
To: [Lemos, June](#)
Subject: FW: CVStarr
Date: Friday, January 8, 2021 9:20:59 AM

Public Comment on 8A.

Tabatha Miller

City Manager
City of Fort Bragg
(707) 961-2829

TMiller@FortBragg.com



From: Dawn Ferreira <dawnferreira5@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2021 10:38 PM
To: Miller, Tabatha <TMiller@fortbragg.com>
Subject: CVStarr

I think that using the CV Starr for the homeless is a horrible idea. I would prefer to see them at the old rec center or old social service building.

Thank you
Dawn Ferreira

From: [carla slaven](#)
To: [Lemos, June](#)
Subject: CV Starr/Homeless shelter concerns
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 7:51:34 PM

Dear June,

I would like to express my concerns about the City putting a homeless shelter at the CV Starr center. I have lived on Wall Street for 24 years and consider it a safe neighborhood. We rarely have crimes or other problems in our area and plan to keep it that way.

If the City opens it up to the homeless it is going to invite the type of people that are going to cause problems. I have witnessed what happens when the homeless are around. They have no respect for anything, trash everywhere, drug and alcohol use, vandalism, theft, they defecate wherever they feel like.

There are plenty of other options to put a shelter, such as the old Rec center on Laurel Street, right by City Hall. There is plenty of room with heat and showers.

What about the Hospitality Center on Franklin Street ? Why is this not being used as it was supposed to when the City purchased it ?

There is also the old Social Service building on South Franklin Street, plenty of room!

Safety is also a concern, with the CV Starr center being located next to schools, the skate park where many kids hang out, the dog park where people go to relax and exercise their dogs and feel safe.

I read that the homeless are only supposed to be there from 5:00 pm until 8:00 am and will be transported to the Hospitality center. Who is transporting them ? I feel like not all will be transported and they will be wandering around the nearby neighborhoods. This is a serious concern. Is there going to be security 24/7 to keep the area safe ?

Who is going to clean up after them?

I really hope that the City thinks about other options for this problem. How would you feel if this was happening in your neighborhood ?

Taxpayers paid higher taxes to help fund the CV Starr center , and when Sigrid and Harry Spath donated a very large sum to fund this nice facility, they did not do it for the homeless! It was intended to be a place for the children to have a nice safe place to swim and have fun and for the adults to exercise and enjoy the lazy river for therapeutic exercise.

Thank you for your time,

Carla Slaven

From: [Bernie Norvell](#)
To: [Lemos, June](#)
Subject: Fwd: CVStarr center as a winter shelter
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 12:37:32 PM

Bernie Norvell
NORVELLS PAINT AND GARAGE DOORS.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bernie Norvell <bnorvell@mcn.org>
Date: January 7, 2021 at 12:37:15 PM PST
To: Melissa Ivankay <MelissaIvankay@msn.com>
Subject: Re: CVStarr center as a winter shelter

Well received

B.

Bernie Norvell
NORVELLS PAINT AND GARAGE DOORS.

On Jan 7, 2021, at 12:27 PM, Melissa Ivankay <MelissaIvankay@msn.com> wrote:

Hello and thank you for your time.

I am writing to express my concern regarding the CV Starr Center being used as a winter shelter.

I hope there is a screening mechanism in place to protect our school children from those who may be registered sex offenders and wish to utilize the shelter. Or anyone who may be a danger to our school sites.

I currently work at Dana Gray and supervise one of our internet rooms. We have young kids who are on campus daily and walk to and from school.

My concern for them and their safety is why I don't believe this is the best location for transient people to be encouraged to congregate.

Thank you for considering this concern.

Melissa Ivankay

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From: [Kristy Tanguay](#)
To: [Lemos, June](#)
Subject: Jan 11 Item 8a
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 11:55:25 AM

I am writing to support the use of the CV STARR center as a temporary winter shelter to be operated by the Hospitality Center.

Homelessness is a problem that can affect all us. Whether we are one paycheck away from a financial hardship, or we are affected by the actions of some unhoused people in our communities. The Hospitality Center has searched all year long for a suitable facility to operate the temporary winter shelter. I know this because I have been approached several times.

The CV STARR center is presently unused and funded by our community. Why can't we address a community need with an available community resource? NIMBYism will not alleviate the unfortunate problem of people freezing in the elements during rainy winter months.

Kristy Tanguay
Community member
Fort Bragg

From: kyra@keemail.me
To: [Lemos, June](#)
Subject: Please used closed public buildings for use as homeless shelters!
Date: Monday, January 11, 2021 3:53:22 PM

I support the use of either the Rec Center Or C.V. Starr for the Winter Shelter. Please approve one of them for the temporary Winter Shelter while they are not being used.

**Thank you,
Kyra Rice**

From: [Jaschinto](#)
To: [Lemos, June](#)
Subject: Temporary Winter Shelter for Our Local Homeless Population
Date: Monday, January 11, 2021 4:58:30 PM

Dear Council Members, Et Al:

I am hoping to reach you before your meeting tonight.

I am writing to address the recent issue with providing adequate, Covid-safe house for our local homeless population. There is a suggestion of using either the Rec Center or CV Starr for sheltering our most vulnerable. I would support either of these options as the buildings are not in use at this time. CV Starr Center seems a better option. The building is newer and cleaner with better insulation. There are also shower facilities. The Rec Center seems less healthy since despite "mold abatement" some years ago, the building still reeks of mold. However, any shelter would be better than leaving the community to fend for themselves outside.

Please vote to approve a temporary Winter Shelter. Help the The Hospitality Center take care of our people.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeanine Schinto
Concerned Community Member