

Dear Councillor Rahman,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern and reservations regarding the proposed conversion of the motel behind The Black Pearl Hub located next to the beloved children's toy store, Mastermind Toys, into a homeless shelter. While I fully support initiatives aimed at assisting the homeless population, I believe this particular location poses several challenges that should be carefully considered.

First and foremost, the proximity of a homeless shelter to a children's toy store raises legitimate safety concerns. Parents and caregivers often frequent the toy store with their children, and they should feel confident that the surrounding environment is safe and appropriate for young ones. While I understand that the individuals seeking shelter deserve compassion and support, we must prioritize the well-being and peace of mind of our community's families.

Moreover, the potential impact on the toy store's business and other surrounding businesses cannot be ignored. A homeless shelter nearby could discourage families from these establishments, leading to a decline in foot traffic and revenue. This could have adverse consequences for businesses that bring joy and value to our community.

I would like to request that the City Council consider alternative locations for the homeless shelter, ones that are more conducive to the needs of both the homeless population and our community's families. Collaborating with local businesses and residents to identify suitable sites that balance compassion and practicality would be a commendable approach.

I urge you and the City Council to take these concerns into serious consideration before making any final decisions regarding the conversion of the motel into a homeless shelter. Our community's well-being, the safety of our children, and the success of local businesses all depend on thoughtful and well-informed choices.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing about any developments or discussions related to this issue.

Sincerely,

Patti Simmers