

Dear Members of the Bellevue City Council,

I am writing to you today about the proposed permanent men's shelter, specifically to call on the council to vote in favor of its implementation.

Since 2008, Congregations for the Homeless has offered a low-barrier winter shelter for men experiencing homelessness, providing support for over 600 men last winter. However, this shelter has moved around numerous times. It is imperative that the city offer its increasing homeless population consistent and continuous services through a permanent shelter site with nearby health providers and transportation. Although we empathize with concerns about public safety issues, the Bellevue Police Department's statistics show no correlation between Congregations for the Homeless shelter sites and violent or property crimes in the surrounding areas.

As a person of faith, I believe in the inherent dignity of all people; there is a moral imperative to make humane and compassionate policy decisions for our most vulnerable populations. I urge you to vote yes for shelter and services.

Sincerely,