

Eileen Harrington

From: Sillysmartsalgal <sillysmartsalgal@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 11:51 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Opposition to pilot project agenda item 2/6/17

Dear Council Members,

As a good neighbor in our cherished city, I see the risks clearly outweighing the benefits to making a social service center for the homeless and mentally ill, in the center of a thoroughly residential neighborhood populated by families with children. A neighbor child on our 900 block of Stannage was assaulted by a mentally ill adult on his way to Cornell Elementary, around the corner, years ago. That type of incident is going to increase.

The wonderful merchants on Lower Solano will likely have decreased business as shoppers go elsewhere to avoid the aggressive panhandling I have personally observed on San Pablo Avenue. Initially charged as robberies and reduced to aggressive panhandling, these acts are likely to increase as the population becomes entrenched deeper into the residential neighborhoods. Clearly such services are best located in an already commercialized locale in our city, not in a residential area.

900 Stannage is a street filled with elementary aged children playing in front of our houses. It is a sweet neighborhood with block parties, attended by church staff and the pastor. Like greater Albany, we are an inclusive neighborhood; we know each other and value our relationships. We have worked to make the street safer and slower for our children. However, increased traffic, decreased parking, and increased panhandling and trespass onto our properties are all likely from this plan and does not support the child centered neighborhood we have cultivated.

I have seen people camped out on occasion on the Methodist church property and assume that might increase as the users of social services find it supportive and inviting. I have cleaned up human excrement in my driveway, after observing a mentally ill man drop his pants and poop in my driveway on Stannage. That behavior will likely increase under this new plan.

We support the provision of social services to the homeless and mentally ill residing at the Bulb and under the freeway overpasses, and hope you will find a more appropriate location for the provision of services. Perhaps the City could revive the social service trailer that was at the Bulb years ago to provide services to this population.

Please do not encourage typically urban problems to encroach into Albany. We pay a lot to live in a safe and child oriented city, and believe we can provide such services to the homeless and mentally ill population without imperiling our children.

Thank you for your service to our City.

Sally Martin
Resident at 948 Stannage Avenue

Sent from my iPhone

Eileen Harrington

From: Kim Waters <kim_waters2002@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:24 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Community Resource Center Pilot Program

Dear Members of the Albany City Council:

I wish to express my concern about the proposed plan for the Community Resource Center One-Year Pilot Program. I live less than half a block from the proposed location at the Methodist Church. I feel this is not an appropriate venue for this program. Drawing more homeless people and others with mental health issues into our neighborhood creates the potential for more crime. We have already experienced having one of our vehicles stolen, people in our driveway in the middle of the night, occasionally things going missing from our front porch or side and back yard. We have a lot of families with young children on the 900 block of Stannage Avenue who are daily outside playing, and walking to and from school. My 85-year-old father takes his daily walks around the block and is very concerned about being confronted by panhandlers. He already avoids San Pablo Avenue because of the increased presence of homeless and aggressive panhandlers at Marin and San Pablo.

The 900 block of Stannage gets more than the normal amount of vehicular traffic because Kaines Avenue is one way in the opposite direction and people use Stannage to cut over to Solano Avenue. The parking is already congested because of the proximity to Solano Avenue, and the church has many meetings that add significantly to the parking and congestion from their services and meetings.

Finally, I am very concerned that having these services so close to my house will impact the value of my property.

While I am not unsympathetic to the needs mentioned in the Staff Report for the Community, a more appropriate location needs to be found. I strenuously object to having this program at the Methodist Church at 980 Stannage Avenue.

Kim Waters
Resident and Homeowner
955 Stannage Avenue, Albany

Eileen Harrington

From: Keith Louie <kaitag88@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2017 12:51 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Potential Social Service Center at the Church on Stannage (Item 6.1 on the Feb. 6, 2017 agenda)

Dear Albany City Council Members,

When our eldest child approached kindergarten age, we decided to move to Albany for its many benefits, including its diversity, walkability, schools, safety and charming small town feel. Despite the limited housing options and increased financial pressure, we purchased a house at 976 Stannage Ave. in the summer of 2011. Our children are happily enrolled at Cornell Elementary, which is conveniently just around the corner from our home.

We came to believe that we could make a safe and stable home in Albany. We've spent several years and a great deal of emotional and financial investment to plan for a small addition to our house. We finally received approval from Albany's Planning Department to proceed late last year.

However, we're questioning that belief after we learned about the City of Albany's plans to establish a Community Resource Center offering social services at the Methodist church's community room right that sits right next to our house. We are very concerned about the potential impact it may bring to the safety of our children, quality of life and financial situation. Below are our concerns.

Appropriate Setting: We fully recognize the troubles that many less fortunate people in our area face and we fully support Albany's plan to provide services to those in need. However, we believe that the proposed Community Resource Center should not be located in a residential family neighborhood.

- We have several family members with developmental disabilities and we know that it's difficult to predict what will trigger an outburst or episode. For the health and safety of these individuals and others, these types of services are best provided in an appropriate facility with a sufficient number of trained professionals.

Quality of Life: When we purchased our house, we recognized and accepted that there would be some noise and traffic, since our location is near several busy thoroughfares and next to a church community room used by church members and occasionally by others (e.g., quilting circle and scouting groups). What we did not expect was that the community room would be used to provide regular social services to the public that would result in a significant increase in foot traffic, noise, parking congestion and litter.

- **Litter:** The pathway to the church's community room is right next to our house and there have been occasions when we've found trash such as cigarette butts and other debris that was thrown over the fence separating our property from the pathway. Increasing the foot traffic using this path could cause an increase in these occurrences.
- **Noise:** An increased of people flow will only increase the amount of noise that is clearly audible from within our house, even with the windows closed. We sometimes have to work from home and are concerned that the increased noise will impact our working conditions.
- **Parking and Traffic Congestion:** As with many streets in Albany, ours is narrow and has very limited parking. We already experience a lot of congestion and vehicles obstructing our driveway due to activities at the church. Any potential increase in use will only exacerbate the situation.

Potential Financial Impact: The location of a home determines most of its value; unfortunately, a home in a location that is deemed noisy, congested and as having a perceived potential safety issue will be less desirable and worth less. We consulted an experienced local real estate agent and were told that with the proposed plan and its associated effects, we could see our home lose as much as 30 percent or more of its value.

As with most people, our home is our biggest financial investment. We come from very modest backgrounds and have worked hard to be able to purchase a home. If a loss of this magnitude were to occur, it would be financially devastating to our family.

According to Albany's document (Proposal: Pilot - Paul O' Curry Resource Center), this pilot plan could potentially increase in scope of services and hours of operation. The possibility of a more extensive program would further increase the impacts we have described above.

We respectfully ask the City of Albany to address our concerns and locate the program at a more appropriate location.

Sincerely,

Keith and Cathy Louie
976 Stannage Ave.
Albany, CA 94706

2 of 2

From: Deborah Schilling <schillingdeborah@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:33 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: City of Albany's Plan to Offer Social Services on Our Block

Dear Council Members;

My name is Deborah Schilling-Jrade and I live at 937 Stannage Ave. in Albany. It has come to my attention that the City of Albany is proposing to establish a "Community Resource Center Pilot Program" on our block. My understanding is that the program will be located at the Albany Methodist Church at 980 Stannage. I want to state up front that as a member of the Albany community, I support offering much-needed social services to vulnerable populations. However, I believe that offering the services in our residential neighborhood is completely inappropriate and unfair to those who live here. I must protest vehemently against this proposal.

I moved to Albany 4 years ago with my husband and son and invested a very large sum to buy and renovate our home on Stannage. I knew that Albany was a small, safe community with excellent schools. The crime rate is low and there are rarely homeless people on the streets. I am also well aware that San Francisco and Berkeley have a large homeless population and this has been problematic in many ways. I do not want the problems that this proposed program will bring to our small street. Stannage Ave. is very narrow, often quite congested with vehicles. When Albany Methodist Church is busy, it is very difficult to find parking or even navigate down the street. Offering homeless services at the church will make this street even more difficult.

In the last year, there have been car break-ins and trouble with some homeless individuals on our street. I do not want to see this escalate in any way. My neighbors and I care about deeply our home values and we do not want that affected in a negative way. Home values can drop up to 40% when there are homeless services being offered on a residential street. I strongly believe that any facility offering services to the homeless should be located on San Pablo Avenue as it is a commercial street, not a residential street. Providing homeless services in a residential area is very inappropriate and unfair to the residents of Stannage Ave. I care very much about the safety of my street and my neighborhood, and the safety of my family. I do not want Stannage Ave. and surrounding streets to attract a homeless population. My neighbors and I intend on voicing our opinions at the City Council meeting on February 6th at 7:30pm.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter.

Deborah Schilling-Jrade



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Eileen Harrington

From: Trudi Boskin <tboskin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 9:26 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Proposed Social Services on 900 Block of Stannage Avenue

Hello,

As a resident on the 900 block of Stannage Avenue, I would like to register with you that I have concerns about the proposed "Community Resource Center Pilot Program".

I would like to request that this pilot program not be approved until the city council has an opportunity to hear the concerns of Albany residents.

Thank you,
Trudi Boskin
972 Stannage
510 526 9103