

Preet Chaggar

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 13, 2024 7:57 AM
To: Lindsay Chase
Cc: Council
Subject: (External Email) Saanich Emergency Shelter Housing... a suggestion

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Hello Lindsay,

Please forward this message to whomever is responsible for Emergency/Shelter/ Warming Housing for Saanich.

I am aware from local social media the emergency shelter housing situation for Saanich. This could be a long shot... but there is a very large empty building in the 3082 block of Blanchard Street across/south from Mayfair Shopping Center that use to be a Home Décor Store that could possibly be leased by Saanich for purposes of an emergency shelter /warming facility. There is a Dollarama there in the parking lot and it may be called the Mayfair Outlet Center. The space could possibly be fitted with 50-100 cots and be used for un-housed individuals to take shelter now that the cold weather months have arrived. If the space offers more than Saanich requires – the Municipality could offer to Victoria unused spots for their overflow – as a good will gesture, given all the public exchanges recently of Saanich not doing their part to deal with this very unfortunate situation for the unhoused in our area. I hope that if this facility is not appropriate for whatever reason – that some such facility can be obtained so that no person is without shelter on these cold and damp nights.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Willing
[REDACTED] Cordova Bay Road
Saanich
[REDACTED]

Preet Chaggar

From: Pamela Palmer [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 4:38 PM
To: Council
Subject: (External Email) FW: District of Saanich: December 16 Council Meeting
Attachments: Consideration for Emergency Shelters

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Dear Mayor Murdock and Saanich Council,

I am not able to attend the public meeting, however, would like my concerns reflected for the record. I am opposed to Saanich investing tax payer dollars to provide emergency shelter and warming spaces for people in the City of Victoria who are experiencing homelessness.

While the intention behind Victoria Mayor Alto and Victoria City Council for Saanich to provide emergency shelter spaces is commendable, it is a better use of taxpayer money to leverage the expertise and infrastructure the City of Victoria has in place.

Victoria has established a network of supports and services for individuals experiencing homelessness. Data shows that this robust network has attracted individuals from across Canada who are experiencing homelessness to the City of Victoria. The unintended consequence of this policy decision has led to a situation where the City of Victoria can no longer keep up with the growing demand and is now asking neighbouring municipalities for support.

By leveraging Victoria's existing resources, residents of the region can benefit from the economy of scale. This approach would not only be more cost-effective but also ensure that individuals receive comprehensive care from experienced providers. Supporting Victoria's established network allows the Saanich taxpayer to maximize the benefit of resources provided in the City of Victoria without duplicating efforts.

With the cost of living already high in Saanich and speculation of a significant property tax increase for residents, Saanich cannot afford to take on any additional tax burden.

I look forward to hearing your position on the issue.

Warm regards,
Pamela
Saanich South, BC

From: Preet Chaggar Preet.Chaggar@saanich.ca
Sent: December 10, 2024 2:52 PM
Subject: District of Saanich: December 16 Council Meeting

This email is notification that Saanich Council will consider the **Extreme Winter Weather Planning and Response** at a Council meeting to be held on **Monday, December 16, 2024**, in Council Chambers, Saanich Municipal Hall, 770 Vernon Avenue, commencing at **7:00 p.m.**

Preet Chaggar

From: Pamela Palmer <pam@sevenpr.org>
Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2024 9:32 AM
To: Council
Subject: Consideration for Emergency Shelters

Dear Mayor Murdock and Saanich Council,

I am writing to express my opinion as a Saanich resident regarding the proposal by Mayor Alto and Victoria City Council for Saanich to provide emergency shelter spaces. While the intention behind this initiative is commendable, I believe it would be more efficient and beneficial to rely on the City of Victoria to provide these services.

Victoria has established a network of supports and services for individuals experiencing homelessness. Data shows that this robust network has attracted individuals from across Canada who are experiencing homelessness to the City of Victoria. The unintended consequence of this policy decision has led to a situation where the City of Victoria can no longer keep up with the growing demand and is now asking neighbouring municipalities for support.

By leveraging Victoria's existing resources, residents of the region can benefit from the economy of scale. This approach would not only be more cost-effective but also ensure that individuals receive comprehensive care from experienced providers. Supporting Victoria's established network allows the Saanich taxpayer to maximize the benefit of resources provided in the City of Victoria without duplicating efforts.

With the cost of living already high in Saanich and speculation of a significant property tax increase for residents, Saanich cannot afford to take on any additional tax burden.

I look forward to hearing your position on the issue.

Warm regards,
Pamela
Saanich South, BC

Preet Chaggar

From: Jessica Duncan [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 1:59 PM
Subject: (External Email) Following up on Care in Our Community

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Dear Mayor and Council,

A few weeks ago I emailed you about my concerns about our unhoused neighbours needing shelter and warming spaces to survive the winter months. I sent this email to every single mayor and councillor in the Greater Victoria Region as I believe that the responsibility for caring for our community should be a region-wide responsibility, not just downtown Victoria. I was so pleased to receive thoughtful responses from a few of you who share my concerns. North Saanich council even read my email at their December 2nd council meeting and voted unanimously to direct staff to monitor the need to provide EWR spaces and warming centres in their area over the next 5 months. While this does not actually provide a solution for anyone in North Saanich who requires shelter now, I was happy to see that they are taking the issue seriously and taking concrete steps towards caring for the unhoused members of their community.

I am writing now to follow up on my previous email to see what steps your municipality has taken to move forward with providing cold weather protection for the unhoused members of our community. Has this been discussed in council meetings? Has staff been directed to find adequate space and staffing for EWR shelter and warming centres? Or, like North Saanich, has staff been directed to monitor the need? I hope you are moving forward quickly to ensure that your municipality is prepared to offer safe, dry, warm spaces for our unhoused neighbours this winter. I know that we are all concerned that there are people in our community who have nowhere to go as the temperatures drop and the storms roll in. I am hoping that we can turn that concern into action to make sure we are all doing our part to support the most vulnerable members of our community.

I look forward to hearing your response.

Best wishes,

Jessica Duncan
Victoria BC