



MEMORANDUM

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES A. BERGMAN, CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
AGENDA ITEM 11.a. – APRIL 9, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING
INFORMATION REGARDING HILLSIDE CHURCH DEVELOPMENT
CONCEPTUAL PROJECT IN NEIGHBORING GROVER BEACH**

DATE: APRIL 8, 2019

Attached is correspondence received regarding the above referenced item.

cc: City Attorney
City Clerk
Public Review Binder

From: Mark Chiarappa <[REDACTED]>
Date: April 5, 2019 at 4:57:32 PM PDT
To: "crayrussom@arroyogrande.org" <crayrussom@arroyogrande.org>,
"kbarneich@arroyogrande.org" <kbarneich@arroyogrande.org>,
"jpaulding@arroyogrande.org" <jpaulding@arroyogrande.org>,
"kstorton@arroyogrande.org" <kstorton@arroyogrande.org>,
"lgeorge@arroyogrande.org" <lgeorge@arroyogrande.org>
**Subject: Regarding Hillside Church Development Conceptual Project In
Neighboring Grover Beach**
Reply-To: Mark Chiarappa <>

Dear Arroyo Grande City Council,

Today 4-3-19 my wife Susan and I attended the Homeless Services Oversight Committee meeting. Our interest was to hear their conclusion and recommendation regarding funding for the 5CHC Hillside Church Service Center and Transitional Housing proposal. As I understand it, this meeting was to decide what the committee would send to the Board of Supervisors for a vote on April 23 to approve or reject. It was not what I expected. Public comments were restricted to two minutes, with no questions or answers. What I observed was basically a committee that had already drawn their conclusions and just going through the motions dictated by their rule of order. A number of people did speak for and against this proposal. Laurel Weir outlined all of the proposals that were candidates for the HEAP funding. The Hillside proposal was identified as Low-Med readiness and Med-High risk. Many other projects were more ready and lower risk. Laurel then disclosed that they had received about 60 letters in favor of the project and only 4 against it. That would be because we (the residents living near the Hillside Church) were not even aware of this meeting until a few days ago. We have written letters, but they have not been included in the tally before the meeting. After comments the committee went on to vote. This is where Supervisor Adam Hill took over. He basically gave a lecture on how this is a one time opportunity, and we cannot keep looking for the perfect location for this type of facility. He stated that spreading this money among projects across the county would not have the impact of a big project like the Hillside Church project. Then they voted unanimously to include the Hillside project as part of what would be sent to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Even though they said they were listening, they already had their minds made up before we even got there. What a waste of time.

City Council, we also are people. Who is looking out for us? Just because we have homes does not mean that any group should decide that another group of people are more deserving of help and protection.

These are things I have not heard any answers to:

- 1- How will you guarantee that if this project gets approved, we won't have transients roaming in our residential neighborhood?
- 2- How will you control excess traffic in our residential area?
- 3- How will you make sure Homeless persons are not camped out around the facility waiting to get in?
- 4- How will you assure the residents at this facility do not go through my trash, steal from my yard, leave their trash, needles, and bottles all over our streets?
- 5- How will the safety of Kids, Adults, and Elderly be guaranteed when we walk in our neighborhood?
- 6- And yes I will ask the taboo question. How will you make sure our property values do not drop if this facility gets approved? Nobody wants to talk about this point, but I worked over 40 years to get to where I could retire in a nice safe place and part of my retirement plan depends on property value. Someone actually told me that if this project gets approved I would have to disclose this on the sale of my property??

We are not against helping the Homeless. I have a Son and Brother who were addicted to drugs, and eventually homeless. Our family has dealt with this for years. But, the rest of us also need consideration. We cannot just be continued to be asked to sacrifice for our whole life to give. We bought our home in a safe, residential, nice area to live in peace.

I am requesting that the City Council vote against this project. It is not a proper location for this type of facility. The answer that Supervisor Hill stated is unacceptable. Just because it is not easy to find a "right" location, does not mean that more effort should be put into that aspect, and it should not be some other residential neighborhood!

Respectfully,

Mark Chiarappa

[REDACTED]

Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Zach Melson" <[REDACTED]>
Date: Sat, Apr 6, 2019 at 8:24 PM -0700
Subject: Hillside Church Homeless Shelter Project
To: "Caren Ray Russom" <crayrussom@arroyogrande.org>

Hi Mayor Russom,

I grew up on Newport Ave and my parents still have a residence on the street. I have an extensive knowledge of the area and seeing this proposal is concerning.

There is absolutely no way bringing potentially dangerous or desperate individuals into this neighborhood is a smart idea. Many children walk themselves to school at Ocean View every school day. I used to do that myself. How could something like this in this location even be conceived as a smart choice. Yes, housing and supporting our homeless should be a priority, but not here.

This needs further consideration and relocation. I'm shocked that ejected officials would be so naive to even consider this.

Have a great day!

Zach Melson

On Apr 7, 2019, at 4:34 PM, Rindy Ives [REDACTED] > wrote:

I am a homeowner on Chilton st and I oppose the Hillside church development plan. It is residential, next to a school and brings MORE crime to our area. Please find an industrial location. A different location!

Thank you

Larinda Cummings
Chilton st, AG

Sent from my Galaxy Tab® E

From: susan chiarappa [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 7, 2019 1:15 PM
To: Caren Ray Russom
Subject: Hillside Church Development

Susan Chiarappa
[REDACTED]
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Mayor Caren Ray Russom
Arroyo Grande City Council
215 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande, CA

Re: April 9, 2019 Agenda Item 11.a Hillside Church Development Concept Project- **OPPOSITION**

Dear Mayor Caren Ray Russom,

First off, let me start by saying we didn't expect to be in this position at this time in my time life of having to fight to preserve the peace and sanctity of my neighborhood. We retired here almost 3 years ago from Ventura County and picked this location because we saw all the neighbors out walking their kids and dogs, there wasn't tons of traffic, and we get a little peak at the ocean. This looked like a nice, family friendly neighborhood and this is where we wish to live. My husband and I invested all our savings to purchase this house. We know the neighbors and their children. We enjoy living here.

We are retired... retired from work and tired from dealing with our own homeless family individuals. When our family members went through their addictions and such we went through it with them. They sucked the life blood out of us for several years. We tried to help, tried to do the right thing. Money, time, emotional despair, theft, meetings, rehabs, jails, prisons, and ultimately homelessness. Our neighbors cringed every time one of them would try to "come home". We didn't want them in our house because there is no trust that you wouldn't be robbed, hurt, abused. Somehow, with a lot of tough love our family members found their way to agencies that helped them find their way to living life successfully. Both of them were helped by places similar to the project you want here, however it was NOT in a residential neighborhood. Two different cities, Thousand Oaks and San Bernardino, had programs in commercial/business areas of their cities.

Imagine to our surprise when we found out just a few weeks ago about this *Hillside Homeless Project*! We have had some issues with the warming shelter but tried to keep it in perspective and hoped someone would find a more suitable location, only to find out that this is a proposed permanent location. I don't understand why you would pass something like this through without the community input. We went to the "Homeless Services Oversight Council" (HSOC) meeting on April 3 where Mariam Shah stated that they had input from the community! **Not our community!!!** Nobody knew or were asked about this project here in this neighborhood! Who is the community that she speaks of? Certainly not the taxpaying voters that we are! At this last meeting speakers could speak and for only 2 minutes. None of it made a difference. It was clear that this committee already had its mind made up. Ms. Shah stated that only 4 letters came in opposition of the project and 68 letters that were for the project. Clearly all the agencies that requested funding

months ago, they knew they had to write letters. Since we, the community/residents, are just hearing about this are struggling to catch up with the system. We were left out! On purpose! Everyone knew how we would feel!

Please consider this is a residential neighborhood with an elementary school, senior housing, lots of family and dog walking. There are issues of safety, criminal element, traffic, etc. I agree that help for the homeless is needed but this is not the right location. Please, let's find a more suitable location in a commercial/business area of our 5 cities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Chiarappa



Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

From: Adrienne Dingler [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2019 1:05 PM
To: lweir@co.slo.ca.us
Cc: arustick@co.slo.ca.us; Caren Ray Russom
Subject: Heap funds for Hillside facility

Dear Ms. Weir;

I am writing to you regarding the homeless service center and Navigation center being proposed for the Hillside church property in Grover beach. I am a resident of Arroyo Grande and live within 1,000 feet of the site. We have been affected by the increase of homeless folks filtering along our street, since the foot traffic has developed from Grand ave to the warming shelter. It now seems to be increasingly the neighborhood to "loiter in". I am opposed not to the homeless services but to the location of this site.

We all understand that this is a long standing and complicated problem throughout the United States and California trickling down even to our 5 cities area. I applaud you and the many entities who are really trying to find good, effective, creative solutions and I, along with 450 of my neighbors want to be part of the solution. The concerns of this neighborhood are based on incidents we have all been experiencing with detrimental effects. The increase in services, including the Navigation center will increase the traffic (foot,bike,bus, car) exponentially to the middle of a residential neighborhood. The need for buffer a zone is being ignored. The increase in traffic is being ignored , the ability to expand services there is so limited . There is no reasonable solution to mitigate the effect on our neighborhood or our school. As I have been gathering petitions i have been also hearing individual stories of loitering, smoking, alcohol bottles, hypodermics needles, human feces. The police are called and roust them along only to have them return later or the next day. No reports are filed. Review of the application proposal ,shows this is a very ambitious project , creating a virtual "Homeless Center" in an R1 residential neighborhood with anticipated 380 visits /month in addition to 168/month for Navigation equaling service visits of 550/month. We will not allow the county to create a blighted neighborhood in order to locate this facility at Hillside Church. There are far better sites and we are requesting consideration of those areas instead. Please add this to the letters for review by our County supervisors. Thank you Adrienne Ashley

On Apr 8, 2019, at 12:34 PM, John Fowler [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Keith,

I wanted to keep you in the loop and what we are actively doing about our community outreach efforts on the conceptual Hillside Project.

For information purposes, please find attached a copy of the card we mailed today to neighbors of the Hillside Church property, inviting the community to the next informational gathering, which will take place at the Ramona Garden Park Center in Grover Beach on Sunday, April 14.

This is a meeting for community members/neighbors **only** so that their voices are heard by PSHH and 5CHC. We are not inviting, nor encouraging our political representatives/elected officials to attend. However, if you feel strongly about needing to attend this meeting, please let me know and we can chat about that.

Thank you,
John Fowler

John Fowler President /CEO
3533 Empleo St
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Office (805)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, April 8, 2019 11:03 AM

To: Caren Ray Russom

Subject: Hillside Church plans

I am a resident of Grover Beach but my children and grandkids all live within a few blocks of the Hillside Church property. To say that I was shocked when I found out about the plans for that land would be a great understatement. The lack of transparency exhibited by the 5CHC and the Grover Beach city Council is really disturbing. The idea that the neighborhood most directly affected by these plans should be left in the dark is inexcusable. If any of the council members drives thru the neighborhood near the church you will see signs in many of the yards opposing this project location also well over 400 people have signed petitions opposing this. The project is just not a good fit for this neighborhood.

I have had over 25 years experience in Bakersfield dealing with the homeless. I own commercial property that is across the street from a park where families and children used to gather now it has been taken over by the homeless. There is a school a block to the north of my property and one a block to the south and where children used to walk to school unescorted by parents that is no long the case. There are two shelters within a six block radius of my property that provide shelter and programs for the homeless and there is a day shelter half a block from my property that my husband volunteered and supported for years. I am not unsympathetic to the plight of the less fortunate. However the behaviors exhibited by some of these people makes it impossible for me to get behind this proposal. I have had to clean up feces smeared on doors and left on the ground in front of businesses, used condoms have littered my property as well. My tenants have been plagued by panhandling, shoplifting and burglaries. The mentally ill are totally unpredictable and one of my renters was attacked and bitten resulting in his having to be tested for HIV and hepatitis. I don't want these kinds of problems visited on the Hillside neighborhood , this is a good idea but the wrong neighborhood. Thank you.

Mairead Jaime

Sent from my iPhone