

From: andrew_kennelly@yahoo.com
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: "Item form the audience" for City Council meeting of August 17, 2021
Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 8:50:44 AM

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I am a Redmond resident and homeowner who would like to register my concern about King County's recent purchase of Redmond's Silver Cloud Inn to provide long-term housing for the "chronically homeless". I make my comments with the understanding that homelessness is a difficult problem that defies an easy, non-controversial solution.

What concerns me greatly is the utter lack of transparency on the part of King County and the City of Redmond. The first I, or most members of the public, heard about this plan is when the purchase was announced in a [press release](#) on July 14. The press release states, "King County Executive Dow Constantine joined Redmond Mayor Angela Birney and other guests at a news conference today to announce the \$28.25 million purchase of the hotel, which will soon provide housing for up to 144 people experiencing homelessness" and goes on to claim, "King County worked closely with local leaders to complete the purchase, coordinating with the City of Redmond, and business and community groups."

There may be merit in using the Silver Cloud Inn to house homeless, but the City of Redmond and King County absolutely must up-level their commitment to transparency, and avoid the impression that our leaders have acted with blatant apathy and indifference to the concerns of their constituents.

Transparency in the following would be appreciated:

- What notifications of the plan were provided to the public prior to the July 14, 2021 announcement of the hotel purchase? What opportunities for public input were there? What meetings were held on the matter and did they comply with open meeting laws?
- The press release indicated that King County "coordinated" with "business and community groups". Please cite specific businesses with which King County "coordinated" and what the nature of this "coordination" was. At the community forum on August 2, a number of participants representing local businesses and organizations including schools and daycares implied by the questions they submitted that they had heard nothing about it.
- What elected Redmond city officials and city employees with relevant decision authority were aware of the plan to purchase the Silver Cloud Inn before it was publicly announced? Which of them supported the plan?
- How will residents at this facility apply and/or be selected?
- What is the "code of conduct" that was referenced several times in the August 2 forum?
- What behaviors will result in residents being evicted from the facility?
- As a condition of receiving free taxpayer-provided housing, will residents be required to submit to substance abuse counseling and/or mental health treatment and/or job training

programs?

- What metrics will be used to evaluate the success or lack thereof of the program? Who oversees the measurement of these metrics? Will there be predetermined standards for those metrics that will define “success”? How often will the program be evaluated against those metrics? What will be the result of success metrics not being met?

A radio newscast on the topic quoted a spokesperson for Mayor Birney as saying something to the effect of it being a “private real estate transaction” and hence exempt from any public input in advance of it. This strikes me as a convenient excuse to circumvent open meetings laws and public comment periods on matters of this import.

Thank you for considering my feedback.

Andrew Kennelly
15618 NE 95th Way
Redmond, WA 98052

From: [Rachel C.](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: "Item from the Audience" for Redmond City Council - in support of new homeless shelter
Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 9:16:32 AM

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Hello Esteemed Council Members,

As a resident of the City of Redmond, I would like to express my strong support for the new homeless shelter at the former location of the 'Silver Cloud Inn' in the overlake neighborhood (2 miles from my home). I believe helping our neighbors is a vital part of living in a community, and chronically under-housed people need one thing more than all others: a safe, stable place to live.

I commend Mayor Birney and all involved for working towards housing some of our neighbors who are struggling right now, and I hope that my fellow community members can open their hearts and welcome this project rather than resorting to stereotypes and fear-mongering.

Thank you,
Rachel Ciprotti
2600 181st Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

From: [Judy Chu](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Homeless hotel
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 5:57:01 PM

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To City Clerk office,

I would like to provide public comment for the Aug 17 city council meeting regarding homeless hotel in Redmond.

I'm one of the residents in the white swan apartment which is next to the former silver cloud redmond hotel. The homeless hotel news greatly impacted me and my family. My unit is currently listing for sale and I got an offer on the first day of listing. It was mutually accepted but the buyer backed out the next day saying after neighbourhood review, he found out there will be homeless hotel next door so he decided to withdraw the offer.

I will be attending the city council meeting next tuesday and happy to share my experience in the call that this impact is real financially and emotionally. I have to leave my home which I have been staying for 6 years. 6 years ago there was no goodwill, no homeless hotel. And now even if I want to sell it, there is not a single buyer willing to buy it from me.

We're looking for city to compensate us in this case either to put security on guard 24/7 in the hotel or upgrade the security of our apartment. There are numerous break-in in the past few years for our apartment ever since goodwill was opened. There are cases recorded in the Redmond police. I live in the 2nd floor and many nights I'm seeing homeless people gathering in the goodwill facing my apartment stealing donated goods after the goodwill is closed. I'm concerned about my safety that break-in to my unit is just a matter of time.

Thanks for your attention.
From a miserable resident of Remond, Judy Chu

From: [Barbara Brachtl](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Items from the Audience
Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 12:15:28 PM

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This is for tonight's meeting—and yesterday I wrote to the City Council president so I apologize if this is duplication. This may be the better version.

I understand that some members of Silver Glen, the over-55 co-op where I live that is located across the Bellevue border from Silver Cloud, oppose having a homeless hotel so near us.

I want you to know that by no means all of us feel this way. I personally support use of the Silver Cloud Hotel as a homeless facility, and trust that you and the county will manage it properly.

I walk a lot around Silver Glen and know that there are homeless people in my neighborhood. I have seen two tents quite near Silver Glen and know where there used to be others. I would like to see the homeless people around me have a place to be warm and dry this winter.

Perhaps once the facility is open, some of us Silver Glen residents can develop some sort of “auxiliary”—or whatever it is they call such things these days—to support the facility and its residents. Not sure what we could do. Maybe bake brownies on Fridays?

Yours, Barbara Brachtl, member and resident of Silver-Glen Senior Cooperative, Bellevue

From: [Jennifer Ho](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [MayorCouncil](#); council@kingcounty.gov
Subject: Public comment for the 8/17/21 Redmond City Council meeting in support of the Health Through Housing initiative
Date: Monday, August 16, 2021 6:16:03 PM

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Dear Councilmembers,

My name is Jennifer Ho from Redmond, WA. I am writing to voice my support of the Health through Housing initiative, including the most recent purchase of the Silver Cloud Inn in Overlake. I understand there are some residents who oppose providing permanent supportive housing for our vulnerable populations experiencing chronic homelessness. I would like to point out that these populations include our senior citizens, veterans, and people with disabilities -- they are our neighbors and not some faceless threat. We should not treat those experiencing homelessness as outcasts in our community. If the COVID pandemic and the subsequent job and housing crisis these past couple of years has shown us anything, it is that the social safety net is fragile for everyone, and the only way out and up will be by mutual support. The people most in need of help are not unknown to us -- they ARE us. The oft-quoted argument to isolate these populations or push them as "someone else's problem" ignores that support for our vulnerable members of society needs to have a comprehensive regional approach, and access to the same community, employment, transportation, and services that provide stability for many others. It strengthens our community to provide our vulnerable neighbors an opportunity to have a safe place to stay and access to supportive services needed to lift them up.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Ho

August 17, 2021

Dear Mayor Birney and Redmond City Council members,

After spending billions of taxpayers' federal funds, Seattle is confronted with the inadequacy of their efforts to successfully address the issues confronting the homeless population. In the absence of significant progress, the Seattle and King County continue to have a growing number of homeless, now more than 30% since 2010. In addition, HB 1310 limits police from physically restraining someone having a mental health crisis.

Under the new Mental Health Sentencing Alternative SB 5293, judges will have the option to sentence a person to community supervision and treatment in lieu of prison. The program will be open to individuals who are convicted of a felony crime the option of a community-based supervision and treatment. This will allow a homeless person with mental illness housed in one of shelters that offer supervision and treatment.

Alcohol data suggests that alcoholics and binge drinking increase the risk of violent offenses. Crimes associated with alcohol include robbery, sexual assault, aggravated assault, domestic violence, child abuse, property crime, and homicide.

There are also crimes commonly associated with addiction. Offenders convicted of robbery, burglary, and larceny/theft were most likely to commit their offense to obtain money to support their drug habit. Treatment with insufficient quality and intensity or well suited to meet the needs of offenders often result in unsuccessful drug use reduction and relapse to drug abuse and criminal behavior. Untreated substance abusing offenders are more likely than treated offenders to relapse to drug abuse and return to criminal behavior. This can lead to re-arrest and re-incarceration, jeopardizing the community's public health and their public safety.

The Redmond Silver Cloud Inn is 63 feet away from a Kindercare, a year-round childcare. It is surrounded by multifamily condos. There are 12 schools within a 1-mile radius, and many high school aged students ride the public bus.

The lack of the state and King County caring for and addressing public safety is shocking. Many of the homeless people living in encampments have severe medical, addiction and mental health problems. Our children, teenagers, young adults are the most vulnerable. We need to have our children continue to play and live in a safe place. Having a chronic homeless shelter placed in such proximity would change all of this.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Phyllis White

From: [Eric Nichols](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Written statement for today's meeting
Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 3:00:21 PM

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I object to the proposal to turn the Silver Cloud Inn into a homeless hotel that allows drug use and doesn't have measures in place for community safety, oversight, and accountability metrics.

If crime increases in the BelRed area, what will be done?

If a resident is kicked out of the hotel for bad behavior, will they be left to live on the streets of Redmond/Bellevue, or sent back to Seattle?

Also, I demand that the hotel prioritize local homeless and forbids bringing in people from Seattle.

Regards,
Dr. Eric Nichols