

From: Julie Chesnutt <jchesnutt@anderson-homes.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 1:27 PM

To: CityofLodi_CityManager <CityManager@lodi.gov>; Steve Schwabauer <sschwabauer@lodi.gov>

Subject: Proposed Homeless Shelter

Dear Mr. Schwabauer,

Recently there was news that the area around the Lodi Armory and Chapman Field was being looked at to create a low barrier homeless center and shelter. As the 2020 President of the Lodi Grape Festival, 3rd generation Lodian, and a downtown homeowner for the last 40 years, I am appalled and strongly oppose this plan.

In the proposed area, there are six event centers: the softball complex, Zupo Field, the Grape Bowl, the American Legion Hall, the Eagles Lodge and the Lodi Grape Festival grounds. In addition, there is the new bowling alley/eatery and Papapavlo's Restaurant/business complex both under construction.

A facility of this kind will undoubtedly increase the homeless population in Lodi and in the proposed area. Build it and they will come!

There is no way people would want to rent the above facilities with a homeless encampment at their front door. It is hard enough to rent our facilities now with the terrible homeless situation in and around Lawrence Park. On a daily basis, the Lodi Grape Festival and neighboring facilities have to deal with damage, garbage and filth created by the homeless that are allowed to live unlawfully in Lawrence Park.

In our neighborhood and in the downtown area, we have personally seen an increase of crime, garbage and disgusting behavior by the homeless. Just last week we saw a homeless man try to break into a neighbor's home and reported it to LPD.

Hopefully, the City Council and staff of the City of Lodi can go back to the drawing board and come up with a different location that will not be as negatively impactful to one of the busiest and new and upcoming parts of Lodi. All of these venues/businesses bring revenues into the City of Lodi and make up "Lovable Livable Lodi". Let's save Lodi, not tear it down.

Sincerely,

Julie Chesnutt

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

From: **John Ledbetter** <John@vinofarms.net>

Date: Thu, Aug 27, 2020 at 2:32 PM

Subject: Tiny Homes Project

To: dkuehne@lodi.gov <dkuehne@lodi.gov>

Cc: John Della Monica <jdellamonica@lodi.gov>

Mayor Doug Kuehne

This letter is to show support to the Council as an advocate of Lodi's Tiny Home Project. The Lodi Committee on Homelessness is an advocate of our unsheltered individuals and this project's transitional housing component offers that effected part of our City's homeless population. It also fills a large void in the type of housing the City is required to begin to fill. It serves as a hand up versus a hand out to those moving to a more productive independence. It fits perfectly into the goals of the SJ CoC approved Strategic Plan by providing housing that assists the homeless to move from the street, to a shelter, to transitional housing, and finally to permanent housing. The legacy of Mr Chapman, and his desire to work with families through sports, can transition Chapman Field into a renewed vision of that same goal.

The LCOH supported and assisted Lodi's application for the HEAP grant to fund this project and will continue to support it to completion.

Sincerely

John Ledbetter, Chair

Lodi Committee on Homelessness

Sent from my iPad

From: [Dan Panella](#)
To: [City Council Comments](#)
Subject: I sure hope you are ready from Saturday the 5th...
Date: Sunday, August 30, 2020 9:22:38 PM

Dear Council members,

Really simple message. Please staff up and be prepared on September 5th.

Dan Panella

From: [Nate Lear](#)
To: [City Council Comments](#)
Subject: Non addenda item
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 8:37:40 PM

I am and have been a local for 53 years . I have raised my family and gone on to adopt three more black children and am raising them here. We are teaching them respect and appreciation for our laws and law enforcement . I am very concerned about the rioting and looting and agitators coming to our town. I feel the need to stand up and support our officers and small businesses that have been already wounded though Covid! I want to know that you guys take this serious that you'll prosecute crimes being committed and not sit by and watch them burn out city! I have friends that are planning to be out front of their favorite downtown businesses to make sure they don't suffer you making our cops stand down!

Valerie Lear

From: [Taylor Colapret](#)
To: [City Council Comments](#)
Subject: Non agenda item
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 10:56:04 AM

To whom it may concern,

As a citizen of Lodi, I want to convey my expectations that the Lodi Police Department will make arrests for any and all acts of violence or vandalism during the upcoming BLM protest on 9/5/20. The people of Lodi will NOT allow an occupation of these domestic terrorist actors in our city as we have seen in Portland, OR and Kenosha, WI. These protesters are not Lodi citizens and if they fail to protest peacefully, we citizens expect prompt arrests, prosecution and an immediate escalation of force to drive them out by any means necessary. This council is culpable for any damage to local business or any harm to citizens and I personally will help the harmed seek legal reparations against this council for any damages caused by these protests if this council doesn't use ALL AVAILABLE RESOURCES to immediately stop and arrest violent protesters or perpetrators of vandalism. I know first hand that the people of Lodi are perfectly willing to do this job (your job) in this capacity, so if this council plans not to act swiftly and decisively with any infraction of the law by these domestic terrorists, please publicly state so, step down and let the people of Lodi deal with such a situation by whatever means necessary.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Valerie Mustin](#)
To: [City Council Comments](#)
Subject: Non agenda item
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 4:27:04 PM

Hello,

Concerning 9/5 protest to Defund Police in Lodi, we the citizens NEVER want to Defund our Police Department.

We expect our town and property, and person to be SAFE from vandalism, harm, or any ill manner toward all of the above.

We will stand with you if you ask that of us.

Please do not fold to what others “feel” is their right. You have a responsibility to the citizens of this town and we appreciate you.

Thank you for your time and service.

Valerie Mustin

From: [Dave Nuss](#)
To: [City Council Comments](#)
Subject: Non Agenda Item
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 9:19:42 AM

Dear Council Members,

As a lifelong citizen of Lodi, I am concerned about the leadership of our police departments ability to handle the protest planned for this weekend.

Good policing starts with assuming the worst and de escalating from there. I believe the chief is wrong to start with an assumption that what he has been told by the protesters is true!

No protester has the right to :

SHUT DOWN STREETS!

VANDALIZE ANY PROPERTY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE!!

HARASS CITIZENS!!!!

I expect the council to instruct the chief to do his damm job! He is not doing his job if he is on his knees!!

It is high time the police are respected!! It starts with their chief having a spine! The statistics do not support the narrative of the protesters. The first one that attempts to break the law needs to be arrested on the spot and every one after that!

I hope one of you has the fortitude to say so! Stand on the side of the law and facts. Protest is allowed within given parameters, make it clear you are going to allow lawlessness. If these protesters want to see change tell them that it starts with not continuing to vote for people who promise everything and do nothing!

If there is a blocked street, any vandalism, or harassment of the citizens the council will be held accountable at the ballot box!

David Nuss
1600 Edgewood Drive

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Leah Suelter](#)
To: [City Council Comments](#)
Subject: Non-Agenda item
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 4:06:04 PM

Hello City Council,

I wanted to express my concern over likely damages to our Downtown Lodi and other Lodi Businesses as a result of this protest. The protestors coming September 5th came a few weeks ago and blocked the streets, carried bats and wore masks preventing their identities from being known. As a result of community push back they received, or not liking what they experienced in Lodi, they decided to come back louder, and with an angry group or nonresidents that they have been marketing to claiming our town is full of "racists" for weeks.

This has the potential to be a huge riot full of vandalism and looting. I say this only on the backs of what we have been seeing all across the country. It seems that when protest participants are being fed lies to feed their anger (for example that our passed Bob Johnson is our current council mayor and a racist) and are not residents that actually know the issues of the community (this is being advertised from Turlock to Concord to Roseville on all social media platforms), the violence becomes the result.

As a business owner, I cannot afford to replace my windows due to the deductibles we are forced to pay for insurance. For those of us still in business, we are still recuperating from COVID closures, while also preparing for the holidays and clothing stores like myself are preparing for the season change. If a brick gets thrown through my window, it will cost me \$1,000 that I simply do not have plus the time closed to prevent my income. If I get looted, that is more time shut down and longer for no income. It would ruin me for the duration of the year. Mind you, as a newly single mom feeding my kids, balancing an already tight budget - impossible to survive fiscally. I am not alone - most of us are in the same tight financial struggle.

Since the Chief of Police and City Manager seem to be hopeful this will be peaceful, I am hopeful that the City Council will see the need to prepare for the worst and send a clear message that destruction is not an option. If we close, Downtown Lodi will fall. And in all honesty, many of us are expecting it and planning who to hold responsible. If that means we must hold the Police, City or specific people accountable we will since everyone has had multiple weeks to prepare for this.

Please make arrests for illegal behavior. This allows us to file civil lawsuits against them if need be. Please follow our laws and order the police chief to protect our homes, businesses and property and not allow any laws to be walked on. Lodi is better than allowing any group of people constantly break rules and if done once, as you have seen with the street closures a few weeks ago, it will get worse and they will return.

Leah Suelter
Business Owner

From: [M Bonilla](#)
To: [City Council Comments](#)
Cc: [City Council](#); [Sierra Brucia](#); [Winn, Charles](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Non-agenda Item
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 11:51:58 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[image.png](#)

Good evening council members:

I am writing in response to your recent statement regarding the "Defund the Lodi Police" protest that is scheduled for September 5th.

I have already expressed my feelings about the overtaking of our streets and intimidation tactics used by organizations such as Empact, Progressive Unity, and others in the past weeks, but after reading the hate-filled comments and listening to the divisive rhetoric in the organizers' social media pages I feel compelled to write to this body again.

I, personally, felt that your statement was condescending and belittled residents' fears of violence and destruction. You would have to be living under a rock to not acknowledge the violence that has taken place in cities across this country, including numerous cities in California. If it happened in a small town like Kenosha, Wisconsin, it can happen in Lodi. We all know that while most protestors are peaceful, these protests have a propensity to devolve into violence, vandalism, and looting. In recent memory, we watched our streets being overtaken by unruly mobs with bats while our law enforcement was ill-equipped to bring law and order. No arrests or citations were even issued. This statement is not a dig on LPD, they do the best that they can with the limited resources that they have, but you can't brush away fears that are founded in fact.

I was also disgusted at the fact that your statement repeatedly referred to the organizers of this protest as "Lodi residents", which for the most part, they are not. They have so little support in this community that they are advertising this protest far and wide throughout the state, even offering fuel reimbursement for any protestor that shows up. On Empact's social media page they state that the organizers of this event include Black Lives Matter Stockton 209, J.U.I.C.E.S. Sacramento, Sac Social Justice Events, Sacramento Activism, and Sacramento Street EMS. One has to ponder why they would need Street EMS for a "peaceful protest". A further confirmation that this protest is not organized by local residents is the fact that they posted a photograph of Bob Johnson, a deceased council member, with images of the KKK, calling for the removal of Bob Johnson as mayor. For those that don't know, sadly, Councilmember Johnson passed away in early 2020, and his last term as mayor was 2014-2015. It would be laughable, if it weren't for the fact that statements like this stoke fear and hate for the Lodi community. Steve, are these the false rumors that you were referring to in Lodi's official statement? Because I fail to recall Bob Johnson wearing a white hood and burning crosses all around town.

The comments on organizers' social media pages often advocate for violence. On Sacramento Activism's Instagram page on August 28th, they have a photo of a hand gun and caption stating "what I was carrying as I covered the Antifa/BLM stuff last night. Cheap but effective.

Always be prepared". On September 1st, one commenter on Black Lives Matter 209's Instagram page stated, "we need to go tear some shit up". The page's administrator responded, "Although we do not encourage or participate in violence we do understand how people could be so angry they would fuck something up, Comrade, and [sic] never hold it against anyone when they do. God bless, would love to meet you someday. Coming to Lodi? (insert flame emoji)". This is just a brief sample of the comments I have seen on organizer's pages over the last few weeks. Our fears are founded by the daily display of hatred and threats of violence written on social media. We watch the news and see what results when city leadership fails to act in defense of its constituents, and fails to support law enforcement.

You can hope, wish, and plan for these protests, but I encourage the city to be prepared for the worst. Antifa is not a rumor, it's an opportunistic terrorist organization that uses legitimate, constitutionally protected protests as a Trojan horse to decimate communities and perpetuate hateful anti-establishment, marxist ideology. Do not call on the taxpayers of this town, or the state and federal government to clean up the mess should violent rioting erupt. This community is blessed with a diverse and dedicated police force, and I pray that this city will ensure that the Lodi Police Department has every resource available to them to keep the peace this weekend, and long into the future. Again, I remind this body that the Lodi Community would not have overwhelmingly passed measure L if we wanted to defund the police. Lodi backed the blue in 2018, and we back the blue today.

Screenshots from organizer's social media attached hereto, please include these screenshots in the public record.

Sincerely,
A. Lee



sacramentoactivism



Jeff Rainforth

@Bring_Back_Phil



What I was carrying as I covered the Antifa/BLM Sacramento stuff last night. Cheap but effective. Always be prepared.



Jeff Rainforth @Bring_Back_Phil · 1d

Cheap, tiny 9mm is great for when I cover riots. Super easy to conceal in my tac vest.



3:58 AM - 8/28/20 - [Twitter Web App](#)



pgroverload We need to go tear some
shit up 🍑🍑🍑



3h Reply



blacklivesmatterstockton209

@pgroverload although we do not
encourage or participate in violence
we do understand how people could
be so angry they would fuck
something up Comrade and never
hold it against anyone when they
do. God bless would love to meet
you someday. Coming to Lodi? 🔥



🐻🐻🐻🐻🔥 100 🍌

1h Reply



blacklivesmatterstockton209

@pgroverload I feel your pain
#Justice



50m Reply



blacklivesmatterstockton209

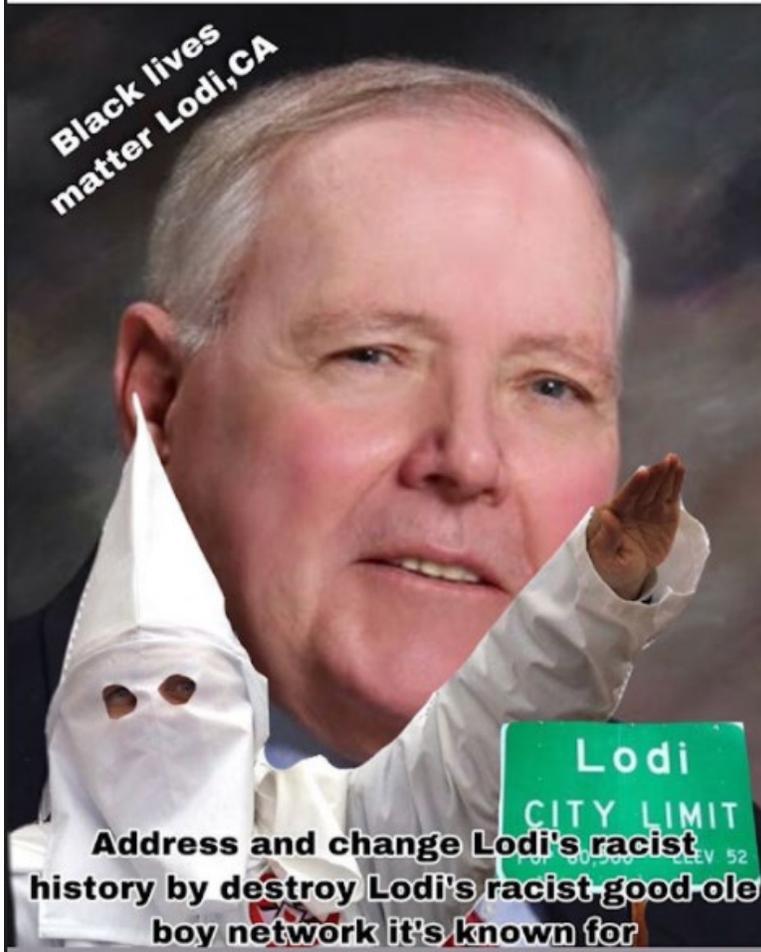
@jaimeeaiiover not sure what kind
of funding you got but if you offer
people gas money they can caravan
and it is not too late to advertise
caravans from Sacramento and
other surrounding cities just make a
rally point tell everyone to rally in
solidarity and have them hit the
caravan 🔥🔥🔥🐻🐻🐻



17h 2 likes Reply



blacklivesmatterstockton209



**Black lives
matter Lodi, CA**

**Address and change Lodi's racist
history by destroy Lodi's racist-good-ole
boy network it's known for**

Date:
Saturday
September
5th

City:
Lodi, Ca

DEFUND
THE
LODI PD

Meetup Location:
American
Legion Park

March Start
Time: 10 AM

Hosted By:



BLACK
LIVES
MATTER
STOCKTON
2.0



SAC
SOCIAL
JUSTICE
EVENTS

Featuring:

IMPACT

J
U
I
C
E
JUSTICE
UNITES
INDIVIDUALS &
COMMUNITIES
EVERYWHERE



Liked by [sacsocialjusticeevents](#) and others

[progressive.unity](#) OUR EVENT HOSTED BY US AND
[@blacklivesmatterstockton209](#) ! Featuring
[@juicesacramento](#) , [@empact_org](#) ,
[@sacsocialjusticeevents](#) and [@sacramentostreetems](#)
! Coming up on Saturday September 5th!!! SHARE!
SHARE! SHARE! Let's all show up on Saturday
September 5th! Bring all your friends, family, and
everyone you know! It's not enough to like a flyer!

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Thursday, August 20, 2020, 9:39 AM, Nicole Winans <nicolewinans@rocketmail.com> wrote:

I'm a small business owner in downtown Lodi. I have been racially attacked by this group on social media recently in which I had to delete all of my accounts because the harassment and bullying and threats were too much to bear. This group has done this to several local business owners and has a reputation now of being a group where if they don't like something you say or represent; you are cause for an attack, destroy your property or beat you. This group is a terrorist group. They block traffic, drag ppl out of their cars, they cause mayhem. Lodi, if we don't put our foot down to this madness we will give them the impression that they can come in our town and bring that terrorism with them whenever they want. If we don't stop this now they will do more than just block traffic and congregate around a lodian's home and threaten to burn it down because of a flag in their yard. It will get where they will take action. Stop this!! Have the fire trucks ready loaded with colored water and if their crowd gets out of hand spray them down!!! The ppl who are blue are the ones involved and arrest them! Why were the people carrying weapons last weekend not arrested? All I'm saying is if you don't stand up to these crazies now you won't rid of them.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: Sonja Johnston <sonjajohnston@hotmail.com>

> Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 4:26 PM

> To: Jennifer Cusmir <jcusmir@lodi.gov>

> Subject: Defund the Police March on 9/5/2020

>

> I am writing as a very concerned nearly lifelong citizen of Lodi.

>

> I moved to Lodi when I was 13 years old. I attended Lodi High School and graduated in 1995. I have raised my 2 sons in this town. Until a little over a month ago, when LUSD announced it was closing schools, my sons have never attended a school outside of LUSD. Clearly, this town means something to my family.

>

> I was so shocked when I saw multiple videos of a mob of people, with bats in their backpacks, congregating in front of a house because they were flying a thin blue line flag. They were repeatedly yelling that that flag signifies a hatred of black people and that caring about blue lives means you don't care about black lives. That is so far from the truth, it's sickening, BUT those words, that rhetoric, causes division and anger. That is how these people control the emotions of their followers.

> Peaceful protesting is an important part of our constitutional rights and I encourage it even when I may disagree with their reasoning, but there is nothing peaceful about bats and other weapons being brought to these events AND blocking the streets disrupts the citizens and could pose issues with emergencies, not to mention these people were banging on cars including LPD cars. Not acceptable. We have lost someone we love in the line of duty and our vehicles have memorial magnets and thin blue line stickers to show our support to our fallen heroes. We should not have to worry that people will target and possibly vandalize our vehicles and/or homes during a "peaceful protest" with people wielding bats. If Lodi government and Lodi PD do not attempt to stop these things from happening after you have been made aware and seen video proof these people carry weapons and harass citizens, then that makes you complicit, since you are the ones with the authority.

>

> Please do not allow these people ANY latitude when it comes to carrying weapons, harassment of citizens, and blocking the streets. If you give them an inch, they will take a mile. Things that may seem little turn to big things if they aren't stopped in the beginning.

>

> I appreciate your attention to this matter and the time you've taken to read these concerns.

>

> Sonja Johnston

> Downtown Lodi Resident

> -----Original Message-----
> From: terri mahowald <terripiper@yahoo.com>
> Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 2:28 PM
> To: Jennifer Cusmir <jcusmir@lodi.gov>
> Subject: Do not defund our police dept!
>

> To whom it may concern,
>

> I am a current citizen of Lodi and I unequivocally denounce any defunding of our Police Department. It is your job to uphold your oaths to defend and protect the citizens of this county. Please let me make it clear. If our Police Department is defunded we will move out of this county immediately taking my taxpayer dollars with me. Our men in blue deserve our respect and admiration. To defund the police is a slap in their face and to tax paying citizens and business owners. I implore you to do the right thing and not cow down to this ridiculous mob violence and lawlessness because you can be sure in no uncertain terms that as soon as you take away our Police Department our crime rates will skyrocket. Look at the disaster that is Oregon and New York. Please use examples of what not do.

>
> Sincerely a very concerned Citizen,
> Terri Piper

>
>

> On Aug 26, 2020, at 5:45 PM, "sarahelizabeth1007@gmail.com" <sarahelizabeth1007@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> Good evening,

> My name is Sarah Scott I live in district 2 in Lodi. I just recently came across a social media post on Instagram under an account named Lodi BLM. They have demands for Defunding the Lodi Police department. Demanding 10% be taken and put towards other city organizations. I In no way support taking any funds away from the police department and want to make sure something like that cannot happen in the town I live. My email to you is to ask what I can do to make sure my voice is heard and that no money is pressured into being taken away from law enforcement? I will attend city council meetings or do whatever it takes so our police department has my full support. Thank you for your time.

>

> Sarah Scott

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone

From: Kimberly K <kim.r.kessel@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 6:12 PM

To: Jennifer Cusmir <jcusmir@lodi.gov>

Subject: We Back our Blue

Happy 2020! I'm begging our City of beautiful Lodi to never defund our Police! Our beautiful Blue our the 1st ones we call for help and make us feel safe during these crazy times. To defund our Police is to take away our safety nets as a community! Our Blue is always OUR backbone and I'm forever grateful and proud to back them as they do us! Please stop these not so peaceful protests too from making our community feel not at ease for backing our Blue! We as a community should always feel safe to back those who serve! Thank you for your time to read this email!

From: [mfigonewcv](#)
To: [City Council Comments](#)
Subject: September 5 protest
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 11:16:53 AM

This comment is based on the concerns that I and my family have as citizens of Lodi. We are concerned that demonstrators who not live here or vote here can caravan into our city and demand we change city policy and in addition walk into our neighborhoods and shout down law abiding people because of the flags they fly at their place of residence. They create disturbances and block streets and threaten the people who live in the neighborhood. Life is tough enough. We are just asking our law enforcement working within The parameters of the law to ensure the safety of people especially in neighborhoods minding their own business on a Saturday, Labor Day weekend, in a little town, in United States of America.

Sent from my iPhone.

From: [Rfehling Co.](#)
To: [City Council Comments](#)
Subject: Upcoming protest
Date: Sunday, August 30, 2020 9:07:33 PM

I am politely asking that we allow LPD to do their jobs and arrest anyone who goes beyond peaceful protest. If need be that, we not hesitate and requesting the National Guard in order to keep all parties safe and to reduce the possibility of rioting in our city. We support our thin blue line. Thank you!

Kind regards,

Rick Fehling

Lodi Guardian Angels chapter leader.

From: [Sean Nathan](#)
To: [City Council Comments](#)
Subject: 9/2/20 Council Meeting: Item H-2 Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 12:46:39 PM

This email is written regarding Item H-2 on the September 2, 2020 council meeting. While I believe that this project is not a good use of taxpayer money and is unlikely to be supported by the citizens of Lodi, the main issue that I have is the path that it has taken to get to this point. This site has never been discussed at a forum for open discussion, and is now being pushed through during a pandemic that discourages public input.

In addition, this site is a public park and ballfield that has been used for youth sporting events for nearly a century. Converting this to tiny homes, especially with the intention of expanding this into a homeless housing complex, will not only impact this property, but is sure to have a very negative impact on the future of this entire area. This property, along with the other parks in this area, were originally owned by the first Mayor of Lodi, George Lawrence (hence Lawrence Park, Lawrence Avenue, Lawrence Elementary, etc.). To see this area divert from the open space and sporting activities that it was intended for would be a tragedy.

Lastly, as a youth baseball coach I can personally attest that it is very difficult to schedule practice times for your team during the seasons. This is directly related to the number of teams looking to practice compared to the number of fields available. Removing Chapman field is only going to make this problem worse.

I respectfully request that the council either votes "no" on this item or postpones the item until such time that the citizens of Lodi can properly voice their concerns in person.

Thank you,

Sean Nathan
2111 Cabrillo Circle

From: [keepingfreedom](#)
To: [Jennifer Cusmir](#)
Subject: AGAINST planned "Homeless City"
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 10:38:49 AM

To Whom it May Concern (which should be **ALL** of you):

The idea that the Lodi Parks Commission and City Council are even considering a "Homeless City" at Chapman Field on Lawrence and Stockton street is asinine.

You are not taking into consideration the houses in the area. You are not taking into consideration the youth sports that utilize the surrounding area. You are not taking into consideration what the residents of Lodi want.

I will not speak for all of Lodi, but I will speak for myself and my children. The mere fact that I refuse to take my children to parks and open areas of grass, that I pay for through taxes, for fear of drug paraphernalia/trash/human waste/etc is unacceptable. I should not be limiting the amenities that I pay for!

You are catering and taking care of individuals that do not add anything to our community. They are not paying taxes, they are dirtying our parks and streets, they are deterring us from accessing tax payer amenities, and the list goes on.

Businesses are shutting down over a virus that kills less than 1%. Their livelihoods are gone. But, you'll offer hand out after hand out to the homeless population.

Have you stopped to consider the negative impact this development will have on youth sports?

Have you stopped to consider the negative impact this development will have on an 86 year tradition of the Grape Festival?

Have you stopped to consider the negative impact this development will have on the surrounding businesses?

Have you stopped to consider the negative impact this development will have on the surrounding homes?

Have you *considered* the elementary school that is within walking distance of this development?

Have you thought about putting it in your backyards or next to your businesses? If not, close your eyes and picture your planned "Homeless City" near your house or your business. Does it bring up concern? Does it strike **any** feeling of discomfort? If your answer is "no," then realize you are lying to yourself. I know my circle of friends would not want this "City" anywhere near their homes or businesses.

If you still have not been able to understand my concern, I will be blunt.

I am against a "Homeless City" at Chapman Field or any other location within city limits.

I am against the City giving free handouts to individuals that have chosen to live their lives in this way.

My family does NOT work to put food in the homeless mouth, clothes on the homeless back, and shelter over the homeless head.

My family works to provide for *my* family unit.

Don't expect support from me.

If you have questions or comments, please respond to this email.

Thank you,
Stacie resident of Lodi since 1978

From: [Lori Cowden](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Agenda item - Purchase next to American Legion Bldg for Homeless
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 1:21:56 PM

Dear City Council Members,

I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed purchase, next door to the American Legion Memorial building, which would be used as a homeless residence/shelter.

While I do support helping the homeless, next door to this venue is not the place for it. Homeless shelters need to be separate from businesses or the businesses will not survive.

This venue hosts parties, dinners, and assorted community performances, both vocal and theatrical, a great many of which are performed by our local children and teens. If this purchase is approved, the American Legion Building will no longer be rent-able, our community will lose this important and often used venue, and the veterans Post 22 will lose it's home.

All of this works together to make this the wrong location for such a venture.

Please, find another area to build this shelter. Next the the American Legion Building is not the answer.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lori Cowden

**ANN L SCHOLL
431 EAST PINE STREET
LODI CA 95240**

September 2, 2020

Dear City Manager – Steve Schwabauer,

I hear that the Lodi City Council will be making a decision about the area around the Lodi Armory and Chapman Field creating a low barrier homeless center and shelter. As the current President of the American Legion Auxiliary Lodi Unit #22, I strongly oppose this plan. In that area there are six event centers: (1) the softball complex, (2) Zupo Field, (3) the Grape Bowl, (4) the American Legion Hall, (5) the Eagles Lodge and (6) the Lodi Grape Festival grounds. A facility such as a homeless center and shelter will undoubtedly increase the homeless population in Lodi and in the proposed area. There are many members of the American Legion Auxiliary that are elderly, and I already worry about their safety when coming to and from a meeting and/or function while walking to or from their cars. I worry they will be approached and/or assaulted by one of the homeless people who already live in Lawrence Park, and now to have a homeless center and shelter, the fear and concern only worsens.

And on this 75th anniversary of the end of World War II I feel this would and will be a slap in the face for all the members that have fought to make our country free and safe. We have been dealing with homeless in Lawrence Park for years. I can remember as a child attending the Easter egg hunt for the local children, and attending the Legion Picnic at Lawrence Park, and not have to deal with the vagrancy issue. It is hard enough to rent our facilities out currently to the public with the terrible homeless situation in and around Lawrence Park. I hear the Lodi Grape Festival has to deal with damage, garbage and filth created by the homeless that are allowed to live unlawfully in Lawrence Park.

How are we supposed to attract visitors to come to Lodi and attend Baseball, Basketball Youth tournaments, Football games, or concerts in the Grape Bowl, when they see homeless center and shelter right next door? Individuals will be worrying about walking to their cars, or if their cars have been broken into, or worse, the panhandling, and altercations.

Hopefully the City Council and staff of the City of Lodi can go back to the drawing board and come up with a different location that won't be as negatively impactful to one of the busiest parts of Lodi.

Sincerely,



Ann Scholl

American Legion Auxiliary President

Lodi Unit #22 & Eastside resident

From: [Corwin Brink](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: American legion hall
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 2:02:37 PM

To whom it may concern:

I understand there is a great deal of concern for those that are in need of shelter in our wonderful community of Lodi, but please consider finding a different location other than the building space across from the American Legion building for Lodi's homeless individuals.

The American Legion Memorial building is a location that we have frequented in the past and I know is used for various kinds of activities including musicals, sports, and other community related events. With the homeless shelter in this location, it will almost be a definite loss for our veterans who use the building and for many other community members.

I have great empathy for those who are in need of shelter, and not knowing of other locations that I could suggest here in Lodi, I am hoping that with your wisdom and knowledge of our area that another location can be chosen.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Corey Brink

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Vicki Dills](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: American Legion Memorial Building
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 1:35:43 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I have recently learned that there is a chance that a Homeless Building is in the plan to be built across from the American Legion Building. While I feel it is important to build them a place of shelter, there must be a place in Lodi that would not interfere with Businesses and important Building such as the American Legion Memorial Building. Before Covid 19 I have had the wonderful opportunity to attend Concerts and other Activities in that great building. To put this building at a compromising situation would do great harm to the many Activities that could be taken place there.

Please reconsider where this shelter for the homeless can be built. Please do not take away from the positive feelings of people gathering together to enjoy the performances and activities that can come to fruition in the great building.

Thank you for your consideration.

Vicki Dills

From: [Marsha](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Armory building
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 1:13:20 PM

As a person who was born and raised in Lodi I am very upset with the plans for the homeless in our town. I attend both sporting events and other venues in the immediate area that will be devastated if this goes through. Please do not let this happen to our town!

Thank you for your attention and consideration to this subject.

Marsha Lerza Yost

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mtnchik71](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Baseball parks
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 11:01:43 AM

I want to say I am very displeased by what is planned for Chapman field. I cannot believe you want to take away our youth activity by putting up the homeless. There are plenty of other places this could be done. I'm disappointed that you would choose the homeless over our youth. I hope you reconsider this because it is not best for Lodi
Thank you
Sandi

From: [Nathan Clay](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Champon filed
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 2:28:47 PM

Hello my name is Nathan Clay. I don't like the new idea that the city has planned for Champon filed. The city should look at the old meat plant off of highway 99 by Woodbridge road. That would be a great spot for those tiny houses for the homeless and for the homeless to have their tents. Champon filed is a great place for us lodi residents to have our kids playing sports like they have been doing years. Also we the residents should be the ones who get to vote on what is going to happen to our town.

From: [Mike Wortell](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Mike Wortell](#)
Subject: Chapman Field - Homeless Project
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 4:09:18 PM

Honorable Lodi City Council –

My name is Mike Wortell and as a resident of Lodi, I am writing to share my extreme displeasure with the city's choice for the location of the new homeless project. I am asking that you reconsider taking Chapman Field and the Armory away from the kids and the families that use that location - for use by the homeless.

There are many reasons that this is the absolutely wrong location. Contrary to what the Mayor believes, Chapman Field is used seven days a week during baseball season. It is used by both youth and adult sports. The proposed site is less than 1/2 mile from an elementary school. These kids will have to walk by these homeless people every day, twice a day, to and from school, when it is back in session. Would you be ok with your kids, or grandkids walking unaccompanied by this project? The Grape Festival Grounds will, have trouble attracting family events with a homeless shelter literally in their back yard.

It is not right to put it across from the existing homes on Stockton St. Do you think our City Council members or City Manager would welcome it across from their home? Or what about your home(s)?

While we are not against our city leaders doing something to try to help the homeless population, we are ADAMANTLY opposed to this location. I implore you to take the time to thoughtfully consider the negative impact this decision will have on the city - both short and long term. This is not the right decision. Not the right location. Not a good idea. On behalf of myself and my family, we encourage to vote against this project at this location, there is plenty of other open spaces, which do not have the negative impact.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Wortell/Sharon Bauer

| LODI, CA 95240 | PHONE – [916.826.9700](tel:916.826.9700) | EMAIL – MIKE@MIKEWORTELL.COM |

From: [Juanita Lopez](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Chapman Field
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 12:02:13 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the proposed plan to build housing for the homeless at Chapman park. I understand the need to help those who are in need but this is not the appropriate area. I, myself was born and raised in Lodi and have lived in the area around Lawrence school for over 25 years. Although my neighborhood is safe, my children and I do not feel safe walking near the grape festival grounds and Lawrence park. On one occasion as my child and I walked our dogs across the street from Lawrence park a group that was at the park threatened to have their dog attack my dogs and another individual said he was going to take my dogs. Since that occasion we do not walk in that area. We have been walking to downtown so my son can play Pokemon GO and if the city decides to build this encampment that will no longer be something we can do, since my child does not feel safe walking by. I and many of my neighbors do not feel this is fair to our us and our kids.

Also, I am sure you are aware that there is an elementary school a block away. Once school resumes will you be able to guarantee the safety of children and families while walking by the park? Some of the people that would be at this encampment have mental issues, which I understand need to be addressed but can also make them dangerous to parents walking their kids to and from school. Come winter and it starts to get foggy it will become a dangerous situation, not only for our kids but the people coming and going from that area. People will not feel safe leaving their cars in the area when they come to the grape festival, baseball games or the Grape Bowl Classic that is held every year. There are many other examples I can give as to why this is not a good solution but I am sure you have heard plenty from the community. **THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN SHOULD COME BEFORE ANYTHING!!!!** Allowing this encampment to be put so close to a school is unacceptable, Is the city going to provide 24 police presence to keep everything under control so that those who live in the area are safe?

As I stated before I understand the need to help the homeless but the area that you have chosen is not the best area to do this. You are hurting the surrounding neighborhoods we have a right to be able to walk down the street and not feel unsafe. I am sure that the members of the council can come together and find a more appropriate place.that is away from the most precious things we have.....**OUR CHILDREN!** Thank you for you time and I hope you will understand the concern of the community.

From: [Peter Matlock](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Chapman field/city council
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 1:29:10 PM

Dear City Council Members,

My name is Peter Matlock and I feel very fortunate to be able to say that I was born in Lodi and am now starting my own family in Lodi. Everyday it seems like I hear news that makes me feel like Lodi is turning for the worse. When I grew up here I was proud to call myself a Lodian and I can unfortunately no longer say that due to the mishandling of local issues. I've watched the "good boys club" I mean city council fumble decision after decision and I'm tired of it. The only successful thing I've seen get pulled off is Doug Kuehne getting his pickle ball courts approved for his own pleasure. You sit around spineless passing the buck while I've watched the homeless get catered to due to your ignorance. Being raised in the Lodi community I was raised to do what's right regardless of the consequence - I wish you held these same morals when it came to standing up to state politicians or statutes.

I grew up playing sports at Zupo, The Grapebowl, Chapman Field, and the Softball Complex. When I wasn't smashing homeruns during the game my parents felt safe letting me hang out with my friends in the surrounding area because lodi was safe. Let me repeat that... I was a child and my parents felt safe letting me spend time with my friends because Lodi was safe. Now I'm 31 and have spent years in special operations as a Recon Marine and I wouldn't hang out in the same area due to the infestation of transients and unsafe conditions. It's madness. Now you permanently want to set up shop for the homeless at the same location where children play ball. I am embarrassed for our community that this is even an option. Chapman field helped mold me into the man that I am today. People should continue to feel safe raising their kids in this community and you are quickly taking that away from them. Don't blame the state. Don't blame anybody else. Blame yourself because this is happening on your watch.

Last year I sat quietly and listened to the City Manager, Steve Schwabauer, complain about how the homeless have left needles and feces in the empty lot across from his house and his kids could possibly run into them. Now I'm watching him put those same homeless not in an empty lot but at a park where all of the kids in our community play. How does that make sense? Quit making excuses. Find another location. Quit punishing the people that built this community. Quit acting like politicians. Stand up and be a leader for Lodi. We are watching you.

Peter Matlock

From: [bigkloeters01](#)
To: [PRCS Commission Meeting Comments](#)
Cc: [City Council](#)
Subject: Chapman Park "Homeless City" petition
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 7:06:07 PM

I am a Lodi resident in the proposed location area. I am very unhappy with your consideration of this plan! Not only are many Lodi residents unaware of this plan that would disgrace our wonderful town! The fact that they would locate this "Homeless City" near Lawrence Elementary, not to mention one of Lodi's Historic grape bowl. I cannot believe they would use the edge of covid19 to suggest such a plan where residents aren't made aware of something that would lower property value and safety of their family!

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [Kurt Anderson](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Chapman/Armory
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 11:33:03 PM

Council members,

My name is Kurt Anderson and I am the President of Lodi Boosters of Boys/Girls Sports. I am writing to share my extreme displeasure with the city's choice for the location of the new homeless project.

As the leader of the oldest and probably largest group which presents youth sports in Lodi - I am asking that you reconsider taking Chapman and the Armory away from the kids - for use by the homeless.

There are many reasons that this is the absolutely wrong location. Chapman Field has been used by kids in Lodi for years. Thousands of kids have played on the field as they progress in our program. Contrary to what the Mayor believes, Chapman Field is used seven days a week during baseball season. It is used by both youth and adult sports and is an actual revenue stream for the city from the adult leagues that play there. The proposed site is less than 1/2 mile from an elementary school. These kids will have to walk by these homeless people every day, twice a day, to and from school. Would you be ok with your kids, or grandkids walking unaccompanied by this project? The American Legion and Eagles Hall are cornerstones of the community and they will be negatively impacted as well. Not to mention the Grape Festival Grounds which will, undoubtedly, have trouble attracting family events with a homeless shelter literally in their back yard.

The Lodi Boosters of Boys/Girls sports has been an integral part of the community for 60 years. We have partnered with the city - for sixty years - bringing low cost, affordable sports to the kids who want to play. Losing these two locations will seriously impact our ability to continue the level of service to our customers - the youth of Lodi. We have done tens of thousands of dollars in improvements at parks and facilities over the years, happily and voluntarily pouring money into the parks, fields and courts of Lodi.

While we are not against our city leaders doing something to try to help the homeless population, we are ADAMANTLY opposed to this location.

As a 20 year resident, and in my role as President of BOBS, representing the interest of hundreds of kids, I implore you to take the time to thoughtfully consider the negative impact this decision will have on the city - both short and long term. This is not the right decision. Not the right location. Not a good idea.

I've invited the city manager to speak to our board of directors - which he did not accept. Instead he had John Della Monica contact us. We have invited John to our August meeting - which he couldn't attend. I've also invited him to speak at our September meeting - which I have yet to receive a response. I am hopeful that someone from the city would take the time we think 60 years of direct service to the community affords us.

Please let me know if I can help in any way.

Sincerely,

Kurt Anderson
President
Lodi Boosters of Boys/Girls Sports

711 Cardinal Street
Lodi, CA 95240
209 642 5093

From: [nicole beadles](#)
To: [PRCS Commission Meeting Comments; City Council](#)
Cc: [Nicole](#)
Subject: Citizens again Homeless City @ Chapman Field
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 12:16:36 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a resident and business owner in the City of Lodi and I am opposed to a Homeless City @ Chapman Field, or anywhere in Lodi for that matter.

This will not only bring home prices down but the city in general. I understand the homeless ppl are a problem but let's not cater to them and build them housing, while the contributing citizens of the City of Lodi home values, properties, and businesses go down.

I dont have any suggestions as of now on what to do for the Homeless, but I am willing to help the City of Lodi come up with something that pleases the whole community.

Thank you,

Nicole Beadles
209-483-4492

August 18, 2020

Dear City Attorney Magdich:

Recently there was news that the area around the Lodi Armory and Chapman Field was being looked at to create a low barrier homeless center and shelter. As a director of the Lodi Grape Festival I strongly oppose this plan. In that area there are six event centers: the softball complex, Zupo Field, the Grape Bowl, the American Legion Hall, the Eagles Lodge and the Lodi Grape Festival grounds. A facility of this kind will undoubtedly increase the homeless population in Lodi and in the proposed area. Build it and they will come!

There is no way people would want to rent the above facilities with a homeless encampment at their front door. It is hard enough to rent our facilities now with the terrible homeless situation in and around Lawrence Park. On a daily basis, the Lodi Grape Festival must deal with damage, garbage and filth created by the homeless that are allowed to live unlawfully in Lawrence Park.

Hopefully, the City Council and staff of the City of Lodi can go back to the drawing board and come up with a different location that won't be as negatively impactful to one of the busiest parts of Lodi.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard Vigil". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "V" at the end.

Bernard (Bernie) Vigil

From: [Spencer Rhoads](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: City Council Agenda Item - H-2: Tiny Homes Project Location Approval
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 2:52:35 PM

City Council Members and City Manager,

Like the 45 Lodians who took the time to contact the Lodi Parks and Recreation Commission about the Temporary Sanitation Station and envisioned Tiny Homes housing project for the homeless at Chapman Field, I am deeply concerned with this project - especially due to the location and lack of transparency associated with these types of projects.

Residents and businesses in the area have expressed their concern about the growing population around Lawrence and Chapman Parks for years, and the council has conducted town hall meetings on the general topic of homelessness for the community to voice their concerns. As a community, we have been told time and time again that the council's "hands are tied," and that law enforcement legally cannot force the homeless to move from a public space. I've heard multiple City officials claim that "it's not a crime to be homeless," and they are correct. But it's impossible to ignore that there are a majority of homeless individuals who have or are continuing to commit crimes – evidenced by the fact that over 120 transient individuals in our city are registered sex offenders according to our State's Megan's Law website.

Three separate city entities are providing three conflicting reasons as to why Chapman Field was chosen:

- 1) The Parks and Recreation Commission's August 27th "Combined Director's Office Report and Staff Briefing" states that after working with Public Works Department staff on this City Management-led initiative, the location of this project was chosen for "safety reasons," as it has lighting, a concessions building, and fencing.
- 2) The Parks and Recreation department has e-mailed concerned residents that Chapman Field was chosen because it was already a problem area where the homeless naturally congregate.
- 3) The Mayor has been quoted saying that the park was chosen because it is "under used."

First off, lighting, a concessions building, and fencing are irrelevant to the conversation around "safety." Many businesses and parks have been victim to vandalism and stolen property, despite doing everything in their power to prevent it from happening. I encourage you all to please listen to your city partners such as the Lodi Boosters of Boys and Girls Sports (BOBS). They recently posted on their Facebook page recent acts of vandalism at Salas Park, in which the locked concession building doors were ripped open, resulting in thousands of dollars in damage and stolen goods and money that go to support our kids. Although we cannot "assume" this damage was done by the homeless in this instance, we have many reports across our city that the homeless have committed similar acts in recent years. Just ask your Parks and Recreation department staff how many times they have had to close our city park bathrooms because of damage done by the homeless.

As for the Parks and Recreation Department's response - just because those who are homeless are naturally drawn to that area does not mean that the city should turn a *de facto* location for the homeless into a formal one. For many, Chapman Field is a lot like Zupo Field. It's a place near and

dear to many parents and children in our community, and it's an absolute shame that we have allowed the homeless population to grow to a point that the community chooses to play softball and baseball games at other fields. Personally, I grew up watching my dad play softball games at Chapman field. I was the kid that would field home run balls that were hit in the parking lot that is now basically a camp for the homeless. There are memories made there, and hopes that our city will prioritize parks again.

Lastly, the reason why Chapman Field is "under used" is because for the better part of two decades, our city has not made needed investments into existing parks infrastructure, and budget cuts to the Parks and Recreation Department have forced the city into doing the most it can with very little resources, oftentimes resulting in BOBS and other youth sports organizations to maintain city parks on their own dime or through volunteers. The homeless have capitalized on our city's inability and unwillingness to make our parks and sports complexes more attractive spaces for youth and adult sports, causing competitive and amateur leagues to choose our neighboring cities of Ripon and Stockton to hold events. It's unfortunate that we claim to be a tourist destination, yet allow thousands of parents in travelling leagues to not support our local businesses and generate much needed tax revenue. I also find it ironic that you claim the property is "under used" yet the renderings in today's agenda show that over 60% of Chapman field would be left completely vacant and just as equally "under used."

With Measure L, the city showed that it is capable of sending questionnaires to households to gauge public interest and receive feedback. In fact, when the city surveyed the public for Measure L, our city overwhelmingly supported funds to improve/maintain two city functions: public safety and parks. Could the city do something similar, and send households within a one-mile radius of the project a poll on whether or not they'd support a project like this? The Committee on Homelessness has not met since May, and although we've had general discussions on homelessness at Town Hall meetings, this particular proposal, especially the location, has not been vetted by the public - leaving many to believe that our City is taking advantage of the lack of meetings under the COVID-19 crisis in order to quickly pass a policy that they know the general public will not support.

Councilmember Chandler, considering this project is in your district and your involvement on the Committee on Homelessness, what is the feedback you are receiving from local businesses and parents in the area? Do they want this? Do you want this? Would you be comfortable with the Tiny Homes Project in your neighborhood, considering you live within a few blocks from Lakewood Elementary?

There is obviously a desire to keep a cooperative working relationship between the Council and City Management, and to avoid having one override the other's objectives. Yes, there are deadlines and fears that if the City Council does not approve this soon, our city will lose out on grant funding. However, I believe the concern should be doing what's best for our entire community – not about doing it fast, but doing it right. And we must do what's right by both our property owners and our transient community.

Many staff hours have been dedicated to the issue of homelessness these past few years, and you may feel that our city has reached a point that "We have to try something," or prove to your constituents that our city is doing something on homelessness. But if we truly want to do what's best for the homeless, the answer is not taking the lead from San Francisco, Los Angeles, or even the State, as we've seen billions of dollars hastily funneled to these types of projects with little to no

accountability or positive results.

I'm not asking that we abandon the homeless, because it's obvious they need our help. What I ask is that you please take a step back, ask the surrounding community what they want, and listen to your constituents. It may take one year to build Tiny Homes, but it will take many years to re-build trust with your community if this passes.

Sincerely,

Spencer Rhoads

From: [Peter Matlock](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: comments on item H=02 to be read into the public record.
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 1:45:50 PM

My comments on item H=02 to be read into the public record for tonight's city council meeting.

Dear City Council Members,

My name is Peter Matlock and I feel very fortunate to be able to say that I was born in Lodi and am now starting my own family in Lodi. Everyday it seems like I hear news that makes me feel like Lodi is turning for the worse. When I grew up here I was proud to call myself a Lodian and I can unfortunately no longer say that due to the mishandling of local issues. I've watched the "good boys club" I mean city council fumble decision after decision and I'm tired of it. The only successful thing I've seen get pulled off is Doug Kuehne getting his pickle ball courts approved for his own pleasure. You sit around spineless passing the buck while I've watched the homeless get catered to due to your ignorance. Being raised in the Lodi community I was raised to do what's right regardless of the consequence - I wish you held these same morals when it came to standing up to state politicians or statutes.

I grew up playing sports at Zupo, The Grapebowl, Chapman Field, and the Softball Complex. When I wasn't smashing homeruns during the game my parents felt safe letting me hang out with my friends in the surrounding area because lodi was safe. Let me repeat that... I was a child and my parents felt safe letting me spend time with my friends because Lodi was safe. Now I'm 31 and have spent years in special operations as a Recon Marine and I wouldn't hang out in the same area due to the infestation of transients and unsafe conditions. It's madness. Now you permanently want to set up shop for the homeless at the same location where children play ball. I am embarrassed for our community that this is even an option. Chapman field helped mold me into the man that I am today. People should continue to feel safe raising their kids in this community and you are quickly taking that away from them. Don't blame the state. Don't blame anybody else. Blame yourself because this is happening on your watch.

Last year I sat quietly and listened to the City Manager, Steve Schwabauer, complain about how the homeless have left needles and feces in the empty lot across from his house and his kids could possibly run into them. Now I'm watching him put those same homeless not in an empty lot but at a park where all of the kids in our community play. How does that make sense? Quit making excuses. Find another location. Quit punishing the people that built this community. Quit acting like politicians. Stand up and be a leader for Lodi. We are watching you.

Peter Matlock

From: [Scott Tonn](#)
To: [City Council Comments](#)
Cc: [Scott Tonn](#)
Subject: Concerning Agenda Items H-1 and H-2 - To Be Read at Council Meeting in Public Comment Forum Sept 2, 2020
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 11:29:16 AM

To the Members of the Lodi City Council.

I am a downtown Lodi property owner on School Street.

I hope you watched the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting last evening; if you did not, you would have heard scores of Citizen and Business Owner pleas to deny the Tiny Home proposal at Chapman Park as well as opposition to converting the Amory into a homeless low barrier shelter.

I remind each of you who you serve; **you serve the citizens of Lodi.**

Yes, you have challenges in addressing the problem with the drug addicts and/or the mentally ill which make up the majority of what has been coined the "homeless" here in Lodi. Many understand a low barrier shelter may be in order somewhere, someday, to comply with State Law, but such is not technically before you this evening.

As the elected stewards of our City, it is incumbent on each of you to outright reject the City Manager's recommendation for the Tiny House Project location at Chapman Park and, at minimum, defer the adoption of the County Homelessness Plan and vote against Agenda Items H-1 and H-2.

Regarding Agenda Item H-1, it is premature to adopt the San Joaquin County Response to Homelessness Plan. The City Council must clearly understand and share with its Citizens the long-term affect of adopting the County's Homelessness plan through impact studies that clearly measure and define short and long term costs, environmental, security, and other pertinent impacts to the Citizens of Lodi. I ask for you to at minimum table or otherwise defer this item until such impact studies can be commissioned and shared with the Citizens.

Concerning Agenda Item H-2, the Tiny House location at Chapman Park, if the Lodi City Council approves this location, be duly advised you will be knowingly:

1. Inviting a class action lawsuit filed against the City of Lodi for diminution of home values; and
2. Inviting an injunction and lawsuit filed against the City of Lodi for misappropriation of City property; and
3. Inviting an injunction and lawsuit filed against the City of Lodi to stop a use which is non-conforming with the City of Lodi General Plan; and
4. Inviting a City-wide call for a third-party investigation of the City of Lodi's process to related to all aspects of the Tiny House Project and grant.

Already, in just days, a private group of citizens and business owners have secured legal fund commitments of over \$50,251.00 to challenge an affirmative vote to demolish Chapman Park's baseball field for this purpose.

In addition to the likely (and extraordinary) distractions and non-budgeted defense costs the City of Lodi will suffer if the Chapman Park location is approved by you, the City Council must also ask itself:

1. Why is the City donating a functional, fully developed ballfield to the County when the Council (and all of us) were originally told the Tiny House grant contained funds to buy land for the project? Now, under the City's misjudging of this grant process and cost profile, the story is "there's not enough money for land now"so now our Kids need to hand over their fields to the County and HUD; and
2. Why is the Council allowing the City and its Citizens to be under-the-gun of a Grant expiration? If other, more affordable, compliant, smaller, suitable, and vetted land cannot be secured, within the Grant budget, then so be it;
3. Why is the City of Lodi the only City in San Joaquin County to even apply for this Tiny House Grant?
4. Why has no study been commissioned and duly distributed to our Citizens and Business Owners, especially those within 0-3 miles of Chapman Park, to clearly demonstrate the long-term security, environmental, health, and economic impacts to its citizens and businesses

who you serve. Why not? Ask yourself, why aren't the Citizens the priority here? Why wasn't more time and money allocated to look out for us?

5. Why do we need a whole baseball field sized lot for six (6) "TINY HOUSES" when many in this town live on 4,000 SF lots with normal sized homes? Even if each Tiny house got allocated 3,000SF of land, that would be less than a ½ acre needed.
6. Why would the Council demolish a perfectly fine ballpark that has been properly updated, is ADA compliant, and abuts other fields for tournament play?
7. What is the real cost to our Citizens to fully replace this park pursuant to the General Plan? Has any study been completed? Where would it be?

For all these reasons, and many more, please appropriately deny the Tiny House placement at Chapman Park and vote against H-2. If the Grant expires, then so be it. It's Ok with us to cut our losses.

As a final note. Mayor and Council: Placing clearly controversial and important items such as H-1 and H-2 at the end of an agenda is not befitting and is teetering on the non-transparent. In the future, such important items should always be moved to the front of the agenda to insure all citizens time to speak and be heard.

Respectfully,

Scott Tonn

From: [Dave Marken](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Virginia Marken](#)
Subject: Council decision on time homes placement
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 7:58:26 AM

Honorable Mayor and City Council,

My wife Virginia and I will be in attendance to protest the potential decision of the National Guard Armory and the adjacent Chapman field.

We are homeowners in the Heritage district a few blocks from the proposed site. We have worked diligently to improve our area and neighborhood. Proposing this placement would be a affront to the Veteran's (of which my wife is one), businesses, playing fields for our children, and peoples homes.

It has been our understanding that Victor Fine Foods of highway 99 has been ruled out. Consider the 26 are property, although zoned for agricultural purposes, could be rezoned for homeless housing. Potable water sources and portapotties can be set up. Please suggest this site and a fence be built along the property to not subject the traveling public to the squalor, drug dealing and alcoholism. Research reveals that homelessness is overwhelmingly associated with mental illness, drug and/or alcohol abuse. The drug dealers who we watch regularly commit deals all over our city, would need to travel to do the drug deals to the Victor site. As a case in point, I observed a clear drug deal take place downtown, I had a discription of the dealer and the addict, I called the police and was told by dispatch that it was not a serious enough crime to send out the police.

If this is approved, we will consider legal action, and/or will possible consider moving out of the city we love.

Sincerely,

Dr. and Mrs. David J. Marken
302 E. Oak St.
Lodi CA

From: [Denise Ellsworth](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Cure for the homeless
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 1:01:49 PM

The weak leaders in Lodi, and Cali....don't make decisions based on logic or success rate....but purely on emotion and politics. No tents

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelshellenberger/2019/09/12/why-california-keeps-making-homelessness-worse/>

Sent from my iPad

From: [Denise Ellsworth](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Enabling the drug addicts that are homeless
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 8:53:21 PM

Please reconsider the low barrier shelter. The location that was chosen should NEVER be near a school. What were you thinking? Don't you care about the impact on children? Surly must be aware of the homeless issues plaguing Lodi. I can't attach videos or pictures of what the homeless addicts do in the park and around town every day. Hopefully, you will reconsider

From: [kathy dais](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Fw: Armory/Chapman field destruction
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020 8:55:27 AM

I would like to know why 6-7 people on any commission ignore the input from the hundreds of citizens of Lodi regarding the Intrusive Homeless Compound Project.

Would any of you and your families, wives and children stand by and allow this compound to be established across your street or even in your neighborhood? How about while your entire family is attending a sporting event at the Grape Bowl or the softball complexes, your cars are broken into, if not stolen, and the stench from the compound and the spill over of trash and destruction is all around, you.. Lawrence School is so close, just how many of the lawless vagrants are registered for some sort of sexual offense? The Legion building, the Armory, The Eagles building, all respecting our military branches, to be disrespected by deliberately placing all the lawless, filthy vagrants of this project IN THEIR FACES, AND TAKING THE ARMORY AWAY ALL TOGETHER. Chapman Field should be preserved for the thousands of Lodians who have enjoyed sporting events there for decades. Zupo field, another family park for decades, has been abandoned by you people, rather it should have been re built, immediately after the fire. I can see that will never happen, now, because, as you shove this homeless compound down our throats, now, you will site it would not be wise to rebuild Zupo across the street from the homeless compound. Our celebration of Grapes, every year, at our Grape Festival Grounds, should also be taken into consideration. I feel the city council and the parks commission are not part of Lodi citizens any longer, You are all puppets of Gruesome Newsom. THINK THINK, THINK, for yourselves, for your families and for the citizens you are supposed to represent, for the future families to enjoy what our Lodi has to offer. This project is Absurd, in all aspects.

I am against any compound created by the city, for any group of people who have no desire to contribute to society in any way. To go forward with this nightmare, is to INVITE homeless from other towns. This compound will not satisfy the need to offer housing, "then police can do something about vagrancy all over the city". No it will not. This compound IN OUR CITY, is a waste of funds, no matter where they come from. It will lower property values for the entire area. It will be the stepping stone to a huge disaster, How proud will your families be of each of you when this starts to negatively impact each of their lives? THINK, THINK, THINK !

Kathy Dais

Very disappointed registered voter and community volunteer
member of TAKE BACK LODI. and proud of what WE are able to accomplish.

From: Dwight Holmquist <shdh@pacbell.net>

Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 9:30 PM

To: CityofLodi_CityManager <CityManager@lodi.gov>; Andrew Keys <akeys@lodi.gov>; Janice Magdich <jmagdich@lodi.gov>; Doug Kuehne <dkuehne@lodi.gov>; Alan Nakanishi <anakanishi@lodi.gov>; Mark Chandler <mchandler@lodi.gov>; JoAnne Mounce <jmounce@lodi.gov>

Cc: Lisa Holmquist <holmquist@hotmail.com>

Subject: Homeless Camp Location

To Whom It May Concern,

I find it absolutely unacceptable to designate the Stockton Street location for a Homeless Camp. We own our family home at 405 Sonora Avenue and it's been in the family since 1953. While the neighborhood has seen its ups and downs over the years, we have always felt it to be special because of its location. You could walk to ballgames, special events, the Grape Festival and the neighborhood school.

It has been bad enough with the homeless taking up residence at Lawrence Park. Our daughter has witnessed many drug deals as she drives by. It has become unsafe for our children to play, or even to walk your dog, especially after dark.

The addition of a designated area for homeless camps right in the middle of a place where so much takes place for the community is appalling.

We urge you to put the community at large first. Do the right thing and vote NO on this issue. Please!!!!

Sincerely,
Susan Holmquist, Owner
Dwight Holmquist, Owner
Lisa Holmquist, Daughter/Renter

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Julie Chesnutt](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed Homeless Shelter
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 1:33:01 PM

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council,

Recently there was news that the area around the Lodi Armory and Chapman Field was being looked at to create a low barrier homeless center and shelter. As the 2020 President of the Lodi Grape Festival, 3rd generation Lodian, and a downtown homeowner for the last 40 years, I am appalled and strongly oppose this plan.

In the proposed area, there are six event centers: the softball complex, Zupo Field, the Grape Bowl, the American Legion Hall, the Eagles Lodge and the Lodi Grape Festival grounds. In addition, there is the new bowling alley/eatery and Papapavlo's Restaurant/business complex both under construction.

A facility of this kind will undoubtedly increase the homeless population in Lodi and in the proposed area. Build it and they will come!

There is no way people would want to rent the above facilities with a homeless encampment at their front door. It is hard enough to rent our facilities now with the terrible homeless situation in and around Lawrence Park. On a daily basis, the Lodi Grape Festival and neighboring facilities have to deal with damage, garbage and filth created by the homeless that are allowed to live unlawfully in Lawrence Park.

In our neighborhood and in the downtown area, we have personally seen an increase of crime, garbage and disgusting behavior by the homeless. Just last week we saw a homeless man try to break into a neighbor's home and reported it to LPD.

Hopefully, the City Council and staff of the City of Lodi can go back to the drawing board and come up with a different location that will not be as negatively impactful to one of the busiest and new and upcoming parts of Lodi. All of these venues/businesses bring revenues into the City of Lodi and make up "Lovable Livable Lodi". Let's save Lodi, not tear it down.

Sincerely,

Julie Chesnutt

From: [Skye Skye](#)
To: [City Council](#); [PRCS Commission Meeting Comments](#)
Subject: Fwd: Homeless City Proposal
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 1:31:42 PM

I am writing this email in regards to the proposal for a homeless city on Stockton street. I have been a resident of Lodi my entire life and lived in the very neighborhood in which this homeless city is being proposed for 20 years. Over the last several years Lodi has experienced a significant increase in the homeless population. However, I am not seeing how building cities for them to live is solving the problem. In fact, it is making it more enticing for the homeless to remain here, to not work to get themselves out of poverty and to enable them to continue the behaviors that led them to becoming homeless.

The homeless population is full of drug abusers and ridden with crime. It is a terrible and careless idea to house these criminals in residential areas, just a block away from schools, and recreational facilities such as the Grape Bowl and baseball fields. The city and its people have made great strides in cleaning up the north east side of town and this certainly will undo all of it. The homeowners in the area are going to have a dramatic loss in property value as nobody is going to want to buy their home near a homeless city. We are not solving the homeless problem by giving them housing; we are enabling it while endangering the neighborhood in which it resides. You are providing the homeless with a safe place to do drugs and continue living a life free from the consequences of their actions. Who will pay to maintain these homeless cities? Who will monitor and clean up these homeless cities? Who will ensure our children are safe from these criminals? Who will compensate us for the loss in our home property values? What happens when the homeless population increases and these cities aren't enough and again we have homeless rampant in the streets?

You are going to drive out the hard working people that have built their lives in Lodi and replace them with non contributing drug abusers. This idea is revolting and it is becoming a disgrace to live in this city!

Skye Connors

From: [Ralph Cesena](#)
To: [City Council](#); [JoAnne Mounce](#); [Mark Chandler](#); [Alan Nakanishi](#); [Doug Kuehne](#)
Subject: Fwd: Chapman Field
Date: Friday, August 28, 2020 10:34:35 AM

Dear City Leadership,

As a supporter of youth sports in Lodi, and the director of the NorCal Hoops / NorCal Flying Tigers AAU youth basketball program, we feel the need to speak out. I have already sent this email to the Parks Commission.

For the past 18+ years, we have brought tens of thousands of youth basketball players, fans, family and friends to Lodi to enjoy youth sports in our uniquely safe environment.

On any given weekend our tournaments may host 50 to 100 teams, consisting of 500 to 1,000 players, and some 2,500 to 5,000 family, coaches, referees and fans. In total there can be 3,000 to 6,000 people at our tournaments for the weekend.

While here, these families visit restaurants, shop downtown, visit our wineries, and contribute to the Lodi economy.

Lodi HAS BEEN a place where these parents have felt safe bringing their children and families to enjoy our youth sports experience. They have a trusted relationship with us, as a purveyor of youth sports.

In addition, our organization has rented the Lodi Armory, Lodi High, Tokay High, Bear Creek High and McNair high facilities from Lodi Unified - as well as the Lodi Armory, Lodi Grape Pavillion, Lodi Boys and Girls Club, and facilities at several local churches. The rental fees we pay contribute to offsetting operating costs for these facilities amounting to tens of thousands of dollars a year.

So we must express our concern about possibly setting up a homeless camp at Chapman field.

Some Lodi "leaders" have decided to pander to homelessness as a permanent condition, rather than actually identify the root causes, remediation such root causes, and ask the homeless to become responsible citizens of our beautiful community. The homeless have been allowed to turn areas of our town into bio hazard garbage heaps,, while community organizations form to clean up yhe mess left behind- often to have some call them organizations of hate simply because they have a higher expectation of conduct for anyone who chooses Lodi as their home. The lack of SOLUTIONING has been astonishing.

The community is TIRED of discussing how to sustain the homeless in Lodi - which will only bring more homeless. They want a solution to eliminate homelessness in Lodi.

I personally know a homeless person who came to Lodi from Southern California, because he had lived and worked here before - and felt it was "safe" to come here and be homeless (e.g. he could more safely sleep in a field, than in SoCal).

Enabling people to remain homeless is not a solution. It is perpetuation of the problem, and puts our community at risk.

I have watched in dismay as Lodi has become a miniature version of San Francisco, where

people are enabled to sustain a homeless lifestyle that will - without a doubt - result in their lives ending sooner than they should due to chronic drug abuse, lack of Healthcare, unsanitary living conditions and more. Not to mention putting the non-homeless community at risk. Someday in the near future, politicians and business interests will allow the greenbelt between Stockton and Lodi to disappear, and our community will lose its identity and charm...forever. People living here as good citizens are growing weary of this condition.

Our basketball organization no longer feels Lodi is a safe place to conduct youth sports. And with a homeless camp at Chapman Field, that would negatively impact our ability to continue conducting youth sports at the Armory and Lodi Grape festival Pavillion - as well as at other sites within Lodi.

The Chapman Field proposed homeless camp represents a clear and present danger to the youth in our community - and to youth athletes that have for years traveled to Lodi because of its uniquely safe environment as compared to tournaments in larger cities.

In short, Lodi was a safe place to bring kids, family and friends to participate in the fellowship of youth sports.

The continued enablement of the homeless community in Lodi has resulted in a climate of unacceptable risk for our organization. A risk that could result in harm to the children who participate in our youth sports events, and open up our organization to liability that didn't exist just a few years ago.

Sadly, the Chapman Field homeless camp would likely put an end to our organization hosting these youth sports events, even though we live here in the community, and will usher in our exit to other more safe locations in surrounding small communities.

We urge you to reconsider, and re adjust your focus to SOLVING the homeless problem in Lodi - not further enabling homelessness as a lifestyle choice.

My grandfather, Thomas J Castles, penned the city of Lodi's theme song "Love to be in Lodi""its the Tokay Hall of Fame".

Unfortunately, if the Chapman Field proposal moves forward in Lodi... there won't be thousands of youth sports participants who "Love to be in Lodi" on the weekends.

Please reconsider your plans.

--

Ralph Cesena Jr

From: [Jim Cook](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Homeless
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 1:04:35 PM

Lodi should not encourage the homeless. By providing facilities we are only encouraging more to move to Lodi. I would prefer spending Lodi money to build facilities out of our area.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [MICHAEL NINO](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Homeless building purchase.
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 1:17:52 PM

I was just informed that the building across from the American Legion is going to possibly purchased for the homeless population. I have lived in Lodi for 46 years and I know homelessness is an issue and will always be a never ending battle. My concern is the the amount of homeless mostly drug addicts occupying the building across from American Legion. That will guarantee closer of that building due to people not wanting to rent it anymore. Also, Lodi Musical Theater currently uses the building for rehearsal and that will force them to not have a place to practice. You are trying to round up all the homeless and stick them in one place, but you MUST think of how many people you are affecting if you make the decision to purchase that building. Please make the right decision. We need American Legion.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [watbri](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Homeless camp proposal
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 9:44:17 AM

Council,

This is not a good location to set up the proposed homeless shelter\camp. It has homes directly across the street and is right next to grape bowl and baseball fields where children and families frequently use the facilities.

This needs to be done with cooperation with the county and surrounding cities within the county to locate it in a more ideal location with more resources to fund necessary infrastructure and services.

You are putting the public health and safety at risk if you move forward with the current proposal

A NO vote for this site

Thank you for consideration for our community =of Lodi
Brian

From: [J.Pesavento](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Homeless camp
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 10:49:26 AM

I'm really disappointed and frustrated to hear that Lodi is considering moving in the homeless to our small town!! Of course you're going to place it near the lower income families rather next to where you live. I'm a teacher at Lawrence Elementary and I find it very unfair that my students will now have to walk to school in front of those homeless camps. The stuff that already goes on in those parks as my students walk to school, it's saddening to me, what they experience and see!! I think right next to school is the worst place that you can put any sort of homeless camp. Of course it's not gonna be near Vinewood, Resse, or Larson, rather you're gonna throw it in a lower income neighborhood!! Those Families Don't deserve to have that in their backyard either. I really hope you reconsider where you're deciding to place this and how it's going to dramatically change Lodi forever. We may never be able to open again with that many homeless people spreading Covid everywhere!!! I really hope you reconsider where you're deciding to place this and how it's going to dramatically change Lodi forever. We may never be able to open again with that many homeless!! If you decide to go forward with this you're changing the charm of our wine country, city and I guarantee you it will not flourish and thrive where you want it to go!!!

Thank you
Jennifer Pesavento

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Katherine King](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Homeless city
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 10:01:51 AM

Dear city council members,

I'm a concerned citizen. I've heard about the plans to build homes for the homeless at Chapman Field. I don't think this is a good choice for our city.

Six years ago my daughter played softball at Chapman Field. During that time I had to keep my other children close to me as other parents had found needles and drug paraphernalia on the ground. I didn't like going to the games there as I was concerned for my safety and the safety of my children.

Two years ago my son played baseball at Chapman Field. The amount of homeless people, needles and drug paraphernalia was worse! I would be sure to arrive and depart when others were so I wasn't "alone" going to or from my vehicle.

Our city has so few areas for our children to play baseball and softball already, why are we taking this complex away from them? Over the past 6 years when my children were playing baseball and softball the coaches biggest concern was always being able to find a place to practice. Save Chapman Field for our children! Clean up the area and provide a nice area for families!

Over the past few months I have driven past that area to get to the grape festival grounds 6 days a week. I'm aware that there are current restraining orders on the homeless that live around there from going into the grape bowl or the grape festival grounds. This is very concerning that we will be inviting more homeless once they're all aware of the lovely free place they have to destroy. I personally have had issues with homeless walking into the street with no notice, listened to them yelling profanities and seen the amount of garbage and messes they leave in their wake. These problems will grow if the city is built and more homeless move to this area!

I believe the issues we currently have with the homeless in our city is bad and isn't being addressed in a way that helps or protects our citizens. I believe the issues will get significantly worse in that area by inviting the homeless to live there. It is not right to allow the homeless to bring down that entire area, and our city!! I really feel for the residents that live right around Chapman Field, their quality of life will never be the same. The new businesses that are currently being built will also be effected greatly by this decision.

The new bowling alley being built was going to be a new fun place for families and children of all ages. If there is a homeless city a couple of blocks away, I personally won't be taking my family there. I imagine that many other families feel the same way. I heard from so many people that were excited about the bowling alley and restaurant that are coming soon! Everyone couldn't wait to go! Putting a homeless city at Chapman Field will change that.

My last huge concern with the homeless city is the elementary school right down the street. If you look up registered sex offenders in the area, many are marked as vagrant/ homeless. This is definitely not something we want to have right near our children! That is a huge concern for the safety of our children!

I'm asking our city council members to vote NO! No homeless city to be built at Chapman Field! No homeless city to be built in the city of Lodi! Protect the integrity of our city! Protect the citizens! Keep our city safe! Please do not allow a homeless city to be built in Lodi.

Thank you,

Katherine King

From: [Olga Silva](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Homeless City
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 1:20:44 PM

To whom it may concern,

I would like to address the Lodi City Council board in regards to the proposal of the "Homeless City".

My husband and I have lived right across from the Lodi Grape Bowl for over 25 years. Making us a few hundred yards from where you are proposing to build this "City"! As a homeowner your plan is not ok with me and other residents in the area. Over the years we have watched as plans have been implemented for this side of town and to this day have not been completed or enforced.

1st: The renovation of the Grape Bowl. After so many years that project has yet to be completed and our youth have been prohibited to use the facility less and less!

2nd: The city has allowed the homeless to possess vehicles on our streets that are not legally licensed, have no tires and carry an abundance of garbage inside and out. Basically eyesores and allowed to be inhabited on the streets!

3rd: I am aware that the homeless problems need be addressed. If a "City" needs to be built I feel it should be built in an area where our children and visitors as well as the citizens of Lodi can feel safe while attending sporting events and simply just walking home from school without worrying about homeless people from Lodi and other areas just "hanging out" or being in their "city"!

In short I am not ok with this plan and I believe if the board reviews our concerns they will find that another place for this "city" would make more sense for us the citizens of Lodi that reside near this site!

I would also add that none of these plans were ever addressed to the citizens living in the area of these plans. It would have been considerate to have recurved n invite when these plans were being drawn up.

Sincerely,
Olga and Joe Silva

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cheryl Phillips](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Homeless City Location
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 8:37:48 PM

I am TOTALLY AGAINST the Homeless City at Stockton and Lawrence Streets at Chapman Field. This will bring the wine industry's tourist destination to a complete halt, not to mention this city's citizens feeling less safe while supporting small businesses, restaurants, Hutchins Street Square, movie theatre, and just walking downtown to enjoy our ambience. This cannot be passed!!

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Weston, Brandy](#)
To: [PRCS Commission Meeting Comments; City Council](#)
Subject: Homeless City
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 9:24:38 AM

I am writing in regard to the homeless city proposal on stockton street. I have lived in this specific area over 20 years, I have lived in Lodi my whole life and have owned my own home for the last 6 years in this specific area.

I have seen the amount of dumpster divers up in our driveways digging through our trash and throwing it on the ground, I have seen an increase in break ins and thefts in this area I had to install cameras around my property due to the criminal activity because of the homeless. I have even had them come up to my door and ask me for things. I have an 8-year-old daughter who is only allowed to play in my fenced in front yard with my Doberman Pincher because of what I have seen in my neighborhood.

Adding this homeless city near parks and schools where are children are at are only going to increase the amount of drug use paraphernalia found on the ground, the homeless wandering around and going through garbage, trash left everywhere and theft and break ins will increase 10 fold I can assure you. This will turn our little neighborhood into downtown stockton, putting the Lodi residents in harm's way who work their butts off for what they own.

I ask that you reconsider the proposal to another area that is not close to parks, schools or neighborhoods. We have our lively hoods wrapped up here and feel the city is just trying to turn it to trash. This was not thought about the paying residents here in Lodi, the law-abiding residents. Most of the homeless around here are drugged up. I would move if I had the funds to do so, but I don't.

Please reconsider for the sake of the residents and children. Thank you

From: allegra@emertconstruction.com
To: [PRCS Commission Meeting Comments; City Council](#)
Cc: [John Emert](#)
Subject: Homeless City/No Support
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 8:38:38 PM

To Whom It May Concern;

This email is to inform the members of the Lodi City Parks Commission and the Lodi City Council that we, as residents of Lodi, do not support the current plans to build a Homeless City at Chapman Field.

Chapman Field provides an important venue for the city's youth sports leagues.

Chapman Field is surrounded by homes, occupied by middle-class/working class families with children.

Moreover, The impact of such a permanent encampment would be devastating for the Downtown economy. Our beautiful Downtown area is already suffering under the current circumstances, and flooding the local area with vagrants, most of whom are struggling with addiction and mental illness, will not aid in the economic recovery.

While we commend your efforts to address the current homeless situation, we do not support the current plans to build the Homeless City in the current proposed location.

Sincerely,
John R. and Allegra R. Emert

From: [Kelli Flesher](#)
To: [City Council](#); [PRCS Commission Meeting Comments](#)
Subject: HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 5:14:53 PM

I am a resident of Lockeford, however, my tax dollars go to the Lodi Unified School district. We also do the vast majority of our shopping in Lodi. You get a more than fair share of my tax dollars. And I'm glad to support the community I grew up in. However, in the last several years, there has been a disturbing trend in Lodi. The same trend I see daily in Stockton at my job. The homeless, those who chose to use drugs and alcohol, are becoming more prevalent. I do NOT refer to people who are down on their luck. There is a clear difference. And there is indeed help for those who truly want a hand up, not a hand out.

Lodi is deteriorating before our eyes. As I took my kids to school these past few years, we saw more and more vagrants passed out, doing drugs, or worse, in public. You want Lodi to be a destination for tourism, but you are facilitating a culture that makes it a destination for homeless. To be clear, they are not 'campers', or displaced. They are vandals, and thieves. They are stealing the peaceful life that your citizens deserve, and have worked for.

I beg you not to encourage this destruction any more.

Please say no to the chapman homeless complex. It will be more destructive than you can imagine.

Respectfully,
Kelli K Flesher
Lockeford, CA

From: [Robert Huddleston](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Homeless Housing - Vote No
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 3:14:37 PM

I'm writing to voice concerns over the proposed homeless housing being placed near the National Guard Armory on Washington St. I own property near Lawrence School.

Obviously, you don't live there and haven't seen the things we've seen in Lawrence Park and nearby. There's a reason these people are living on the street. Many are mentally unstable and drug addicts. These are NOT the type of people you want to have as next door neighbors. But that is what you're willing to force upon us. We see used needles all over Lawrence Park. They relieve themselves out in the open. They panhandle and pester us. They are a blight on the city. Our property values will go down if you house them there.

And Lawrence Elementary School is just a stone's throw away. What the hell are you thinking? My grandkids are there; and you expect us to tolerate having this kind of element living there too? Absolutely not! Clearly, you haven't thought this through. Expect a huge backlash.

You should return the \$1.25 million budgeted for this fiasco to the State. The State is \$120 BILLION in debt (yes, that's the REAL number, in spite of what the Gov. tells you) and yet, Newsome wastes money social programs like this. He cannot secure loans from China, England, Germany or anywhere else to cover this debt. The Feds won't bail him out either. This is not about compassion as you're lead to believe. It is about following a Marxist plan to decimate the economy and destroy the middle class. This is the ideology of elitists. Are you also elitists? I hope not. We, the bourgeois of Lodi are not so easily fooled and are outraged by such actions.

We don't want you enabling the bums living on the street by housing them. They will bring crime and drug trafficking to our neighborhood. This housing will become a ghetto in short order. They could become "shooting dens" if they are not destroyed by the residents. You will create more problems than this solves, and we're left holding the bag. And the children are caught in the middle.

Enough is enough, goddammit! Vote NO.

Robert Huddleston,
37 year Lodi resident



From: [David Christy](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Homeless housing.
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 2:26:16 PM

Please do not plan , propose or allow to be built anything in Lodi that you would not have developed in your own neighborhood .

The more we hand out to these homeless the more that will come . The Sorry fact is that 90% of them have not an ounce of respect for themselves our community or will raise a hand to participate in the up keep of anything provided . Please stop the further destruction of out town.

Has the city considered the effect on the property values of residents in the neighborhood and considered the upcoming law suit to the City ?

Sincerely,
Dave Christy. 70 year Lodi Resident and the entire Christy Family .

From: [maria johnson](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Homeless housing
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 8:13:25 AM

City Leaders, Have you seriously thought this out ??? Building a homeless shelter where children will be present ??? That is just thoughtless and careless. You are putting our children in danger and at risk !

Sent from my iPhone

From: lodistuckin@yahoo.com
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Homeless location...
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 12:38:46 PM

To All Council members,

Hope you are listening to the large contingency of Lodi community members... I will share some thoughts to before you make your decision. Many wonderful memories playing, coaching, being a spectator at the Armory and playing on Chapman Field. I hope my children, grand kids, and our local youth get to experience and enjoy the opportunities of these facilities, that I had. Council, I ask each one of you to consider other locations. Your vote is crucial to this area as we as a community are counting on you to keep these facilities functioning in their current state. Don't let us down... Keep the positive memories occurring for others in our Lodi community...

Sincerely,

Michael Matlock
209-969-6009

From: [sally skelton](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Homeless Problem
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 12:57:37 PM

Hello All,

I don't believe in giving someone something for nothing.

I don't believe in enabling bad behavior.

I don't believe in zero consequences for bad acts.

I don't believe in ignoring all the ridiculous things that the homeless do and trying to justify those ridiculous things with the statement that "our hands are tied."

I believe in hostile architecture to rid areas of the bums and junkies.

I believe in making Lodi a very homeless-unfriendly place to be. Don't feed them, give them clothes, let them sleep wherever the frick they want.

They might be homeless but they're also jobless, carless, self-respectless, common senseless. Do you really think a home (a tiny home) or a campground will turn these junkies (for the most part) into contributing members of this community? They're choosing to live on the streets and this city makes it quite easy to do. Normal people are sick of it. Why don't you make Lodi stand out with some revolutionary ideas (not tiny homes!) to really get rid of this problem? From what I see out there, most (if not all) are on drugs. As a member of Take Back Lodi, I've seen all the needles in their camps, not to mention the mountains of food and stolen items. And yet there you sit, allowing and now encouraging it to happen.

I'm also very against housing them near the Legion Building. Good grief, unbelievable.

Sally Skelton

14 S. Sunset Dr

From: [Nancy Hennefer](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Homeless Proposal
Date: Monday, August 24, 2020 1:09:44 PM

Dear Lodi City Council,

I realize you have probably been inundated with letters, emails, and phone calls regarding the proposed Homeless Encampment on the existing ball fields and buildings of Lodi. Besides the most common complaints you have been presented, I'd like to focus on the impact of losing the Softball Complex, Zupo Field and Armory Park would have on our citizens, particularly our youth.

Our Parks and Recreation Department has shared specific data with you, but as a reminder, I was given this information from Cathi DeGroot:

"... we serve 250,000+ adult and youth sports participants and spectators annually at this NE Lodi Sports Complex comprised of Chapman Field, Zupo Field, the Grape Bowl and the Softball Complex."

Now imagine all of the youth and adults who will no longer have access to any of this (with the exception of the Grape Bowl). This also impacts the dollars generated to local business from these same people who want to purchase food or drink before, during or after their events, or stay at hotels for multi-day events and tournaments. Speaking of the Grape Bowl, having a Homeless encampment so close may cause organizations to go elsewhere, both sporting events, and things like the Marching Band Fall Classic. Furthermore, I don't think this would make much of a positive impression on the increasing number of visitors who attend the multitude of activities held on the Grape Festival grounds.

But back to the biggest drawback: the lose of opportunities for youth and adults to engage in physical activity!

The premier National organization on Sport and Physical Activity (SHAPE America) has listed the following researched based benefits of regular physical activity:

- reduces the risk for overweight, diabetes and other chronic diseases
- assists in improved academic performance
- helps children feel better about themselves

- reduces the risk for depression and the effects of stress
- helps children prepare to be productive, healthy members of society and
- improves overall quality of life.

Every time we eliminate programs, facilities and opportunities for our population to be physically active, we are guilty of contributing to the overall health issues so prevalent today. Those affected include not only adults, but our teens and youth, as our school districts Physical Education classes cannot meet the recommended time that should be allotted to daily physical activity including school athletic programs which do not accommodate all. Add in the limited physical activity choices outside the school day which compounds the problem (although our new Pickleball Courts at Legion park have been a HUGE success for both young and old! ).

While it's true that there will be alternative facilities for the sport activities (DeBendetti Park for one), the current ball parks and buildings are well used (pre CoVid, that is) not to mention that they are historic institutions in our town. Think of the number of groups that use the Armory, Eagles Lodge, et.al.

I hope you will keep the tax-paying citizens of Lodi as the top priority. Yes, the Homeless situation is systemic and overwhelming and should be confronted. But using this beautiful section of Lodi as the solution is short sided and irresponsible.

Respectfully,

Nancy Hennefer
850 W. Turner Rd
Lodi, CA

From: [Gretchen Dobler](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Homeless shelter by the Eagles Hall and Legion Building
Date: Sunday, August 30, 2020 11:12:32 AM

I am totally against putting a Homeless Shelter at the Armory and the softball field beside it. The children need a safe place to play ball. The homeless are already making a mess of the park beside the Legion building.

Please do not approve of this Shelter.

Gretchen Dobler

From: [Julie McGhie](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Homeless shelter downtown
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 9:05:28 AM

I oppose the current location of interest downtown. It would undo the hard work that has been done to revitalize downtown, and would hinder the businesses that are already struggling.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kathleen Whisler](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Homeless shelter
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 1:36:11 PM

Dear council members,

I have just learned of the city's proposal to purchase the building at the corner of Lockeford and Washington Streets with the intent to turn it into a homeless shelter. I recognize that homelessness is a serious problem in our community, but this cannot be the solution.

We cannot plan to house a concentration of homeless people so close to the baseball fields and football stadium where our community's children and families come to enjoy high school sports. Putting a homeless shelter there puts our children and families in danger. While many homeless are harmless, mental illness and substance abuse are rampant among this segment of our community. We must keep our community, especially our children, safe.

Just days ago, my husband had an encounter with a homeless man a few yards away from American Legion Hall. Luckily, the man backed away. Had this been me, or a teenager, the outcome may have been tragically different. Legion is one of the best and most popular places for large events and gatherings in our community. A homeless shelter across the street will make my husband's incident a normal occurrence, and ruin this venue for every group and family in the community.

Please, for the safety of our community, find a different location for a homeless shelter. This building is not the right place.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kathleen Hambrick Whisler
Concerned citizen

From: [Billie Schmierer](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: homeless situation
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 12:07:03 PM

Dear Council:

I strongly urge you if you must build tiny houses or any housing for the homeless that you do not do it at the Armory or Chapman Field. Do not take this away from the many people that use those baseball fields. Also, people should not have to walk around or see these people that hang out at the ball fields when they go to functions at the Lodi Grape Bowl or the Grape Festival Grounds. Also, there are homes in this area and Lawrence School. The bowling alley will also not be far from that area. This would be horrible for the kids.

I am sick and tired of seeing these individuals and what they are doing to our town. If you must use your Grant, please do so on the other side of the freeway. There is plenty of land to choose from. My desire is that you do nothing for them as there are already services provided to them and the numbers will only increase if you give them more free handouts.

Billie and Jimmy Schmierer
2300 West Lodi Avenue
Lodi, CA 95242

From: [Jim Casey](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Homeless tiny homes
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020 3:50:59 PM

It is my understanding that the tiny homes grant must be spent by a deadline, or Lodi loses the funds. If this is the case, LET IT GO. You have not considered the long term maintenance of these homes, the liability of city ownership, nor administration of the homes themselves. These costs will be ever lasting long after your grant money is spent. Let Stockton have the funds.

Jim Casey
812 Virginia ave

Sent from my iPad

From: [Maria](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Steve Schwabauer](#)
Subject: Homeless vote
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 8:16:24 AM

Good morning:

As a voter and home owner in Lodi I'm asking for a NO vote on the proposed Homeless complex. So what we if we loose the grant money. That isn't the point. People live here because we love the city and it is a great place to raise kids.

Mr. Schwaber is mistaken on youth sports. Look at Upward they have to turn kids away due to high demand. Look at travel sports be it for baseball or soccer it is a growing endeavor.

Lodi has those fields and could generate money if they rented them out to companies that run travel tournaments. It would bring money to the city and those folks would spent money here on food, gas, etc.

The Park and Rec department has been a mess for years and honestly we should hire a private company to take it over. There are so many missed opportunities to grow Park and Rec in Lodi.

Additionally Park and Rec shouldn't be allowed to let their pals use the locked baseball fields which happens now. As a taxpayer who funds those fields everyone should have access not just the elite.

The solution to the Homeless should not come at the expense of the families of Lodi. We don't want this program.

VOTE NO!!

Thank you,

Maria England

From: [Earline Lund](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Homeless
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 11:53:53 AM

Since homeless is a bigger problem that just Lodi could we consider tackling it a s a county problem. I was just out at the Harney lane migrant camp. This works well as a central area (out of town) for migrants and has facilities. There is room to put small houses and there is more land around it to grow. Please consider

Earline Lund

From: [Precilla](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Housing for the Homeless
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 5:44:21 PM

This is Non-Sense... the buildings here in our city have been here long before the 50's and hold meaning to the people of the City of Lodi...

The focus should be helping people help themselves... oh what am I talking about this has been forgotten...

I believe in helping people.... there is a difference. I don't have to compensate for ones behavior or choices... this is my GOD HIVEN RIGHT! As a CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES!
Sent from my iPhone

From: [laurie sharpe](#)
To: [City Council Comments](#)
Subject: Ignorance
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2020 5:48:09 PM

City Council,

Unbelievable!!! Even after posting our disbelief that you would put homeless headquarters by a school, park, and playground. Even after voicing our opinion about where a shelter, toilets, hand washing plus paid security would be more well received. You did it anyway!!!!

All this shows us is that You could care about our voices, our opinions, our town or our kids.

Well..... ok then, you tell us what is important to you?

Tell us how important your career, your families welfare and your businesses are. List each one so we can apply for grants to help the less unfortunate and send them your way!

You feel like you e been attacked. Right? Well, that's how we feel! Not pretty is it.?

I cannot believe you spent (our) money putting ports potties and hand washing stations behind gated, fenced areas WITH a paid security guard. Oh my!!!!!!

And to top it off? Next to a public restroom where there is drug sales and sex for sale all day, every day. ♀

I can't make any reasoning for this! Can you? If you can please explain. Many, many concerns citizens want to hear it!

Sincerely,

Laurie Sharpe

From: [Maritza Mendez](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Impact on Veterans regarding sale of building across from The American Legion Memorial Building
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 1:56:40 PM

Dear council members,

We were disheartened to hear that the plan is to purchase the building across from The American Legion Memorial Building to house the homeless. We realize the need to provide adequate resources including shelter for the homeless of which we are strong supporters. However, the Veterans have been established in their building for many years and have provided many wonderful community events and fundraisers. If the homeless will be sheltered across from them, then they will no longer be able to provide these services not to mention the support it provides their organization through their fundraising events. The Veterans fought for our country and have been established at this historical site for many years and the impact would have a negative effect since many will be hesitant to attend events across from the homeless shelter.

We would appreciate you considering housing the homeless at a location where the impact would be minimal to businesses.

Thank you for your consideration,

Maritza Mendez
Lessie Bond
Sent from my iPad

From: [Michael Bennett](#)
To: [City Council Comments](#)
Subject: Item C-12 Homeless Shelter
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 2:32:22 PM

Michael Bennett, 523 Olive Court Lodi, CA

As a resident and a Past Commander of Post 22 Lodi, American Legion I along with other veterans and members of Post 22, I must strongly object to the conversion of Chapman Field and Armory to a homeless shelter. Based on the City Manager's report it seems to be a poor analysis of options and is guided, in part, by misinformation and erroneous assumptions. That neighborhood should no longer be abused by homeless people. It is a high value venue for numerous cultural and sporting events. The American Legion, Lodi Grape Festival, Boys and Girls Sports, numerous soccer tournaments, Tony Zupo Field Baseball and Basket Ball and other sporting events in the Armory contribute to the physical, cultural and economic health of Lodi. I strongly suggest that other sites, not in the heart of our community, be considered.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Michael W. Bennett

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Mark Armstrong](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Letter for public comment
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 10:44:47 AM

Please include this for public comment at the City Council meeting tonight.

Dear Councilmembers,

Soon you will hear about a plan to put a low barrier (come & go) shelter for homeless in the Armory/Chapman Field area of Lodi. The reasons you will hear that this is a great place is that the Armory is suitable for the shelter, Chapman Field is dilapidated and underused, the homeowners in that area won't care because it's subsidized housing, and that this shelter and homeless campground will solve the homeless problem in Lodi.

In actuality, the following are reasons why it is NOT the place for it:

1. The Armory is no longer on the State list of disposable property. It would have to be purchased and would require major work to turn it into a shelter.
2. Chapman Field is not in disrepair and was not underutilized. Both statements are false; it is a great field and prior to COVID-19 it was used all the time.
3. The homeowners will care! They don't want homeless garbage in their front yard any more than you do.
4. This low barrier shelter will not help our homeless problem it will have the opposite effect. Once the word is out the homeless will come from far and wide for free clothes, free food, free shelter, medical care and more.

As the founder of Take Back Lodi I have been in the trenches (literally) doing homeless camp cleanups. Point in time counts, I've helped homeless get help through the community liaison officer. I have had a close up view of what these people can do. The shelter will be magnet for crime, drugs, filth, broken down vehicles, and a total destruction of the surrounding businesses and sports fields; believe me, I've seen it.

As the Parks and Rec Commission your responsibility is to promote sports and activities not take them away. The Armory was home to basketball and other sports and Chapman Field was always used. Just imagine going to game at Zupo Field, a dance at the American Legion Hall, an event at the Lodi Grape Festival grounds, a fundraiser at the Eagles Lodge, a game at The Grape Bowl with this shelter right in the middle of all of that. No one will feel safe and rightfully so.

Personally I have watched the homeless destroy Lawrence Park and the area around it. You won't decrease the amount of people in the Park, it will only get worse.

Please do not say yes to this. If you do you might as well throw it the towel on The Grape Bowl, other softball fields, Zupo Field and not to mention the other businesses around it. They will go down the toilet with Chapman Field.

Put it to the people – you will hear the right answer.

Thank you,
Mark A. Armstrong
Lodi Grape Festival General Manager
Take Back Lodi Founder

From: [Brandy Haupt](#)
To: [City Council](#); [JoAnne Mounce](#); [Mark Chandler](#); [Doug Kuehne](#); [Alan Nakanishi](#)
Subject: letter regarding proposed homeless shelter
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 11:56:42 AM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in strong opposition to the low barrier homeless shelter that is proposed for the Armory and Chapman Field.

I spend a lot of time in this area for both work and personal reasons. Over the years I have been to many games at Zupo Field, Chapman Field and The Grape Bowl, I know many groups and non-profit organizations that have used the American Legion Hall, the Lodi Eagles Lodge and the Lodi Grape Festival as a place to celebrate their wedding, to raise money for their group (ironically these venues are home to many fundraisers for youth sports) and to gather as a community to celebrate Lodi. I see kids walking to Lawrence School every day, sometimes alone or with other young children but without an adult. I've seen service men and women gather at the Lodi Armory to prepare for training or other activities – these are men and women who have committed their lives to keeping us safe.

This is absolutely not the place to build a homeless shelter.

Lawrence School is located a block away from where this proposed homeless shelter will be and every day elementary school children will have to walk by and witness the filth, drugs, and be exposed to behaviors that children should not have to see. This says nothing to the fact that there are homes directly across the street.

Through COVID-19 event venues have been shut down across the country. When it comes time for events to begin again how likely is it that a youth sports team is going to rent the American Legion Hall for a fundraiser dinner when there is a homeless shelter across the street? And that is only one venue! The Lodi Eagles Lodge, the American Legion Hall and the Lodi Grape Festival grounds will all suffer greatly because it will be impossible to attract people to this part of town.

Since March kids have been told they had to stay home, sports have been cancelled, vacation has been cancelled, SCHOOL has been cancelled. There will be a time when sports can start up again. Why would you want to limit the available programs for these kids that so badly need an outlet? By deactivating Chapman Field you have one less facility to use, and let's be honest we aren't going to attract anyone else to facilities anywhere in the vicinity if there is a homeless shelter there.

I drive past Lawrence Park multiple times a day, and every day it gets a little worse. The people in the Park aren't homeless - they are LIVING in Lawrence Park and a low barrier homeless shelter will not encourage them to move. They have mounds of trash, they use the sprinklers to shower and clean their private parts (I've seen it), they are blatantly doing drugs (I've seen it) and I have a strong suspicion there is solicitation and drug sales going on all day long. DAILY there are arguments laced with profanity and people screaming at each other, and cars are always parked along

Calaveras Street with contents spilled out onto the sidewalk and road. The shelter will not only encourage homeless people to flock to Lodi, but we will see more people in Lawrence Park. That Park is downright dangerous.

At my place of business we are constantly cleaning up human waste (I've seen it), garbage (I've seen it) and chasing off people trying to dig in our trash (I've chased them off). Many times I have been fearful of repercussion because I asked them to leave when they weren't supposed to be there in the first place. I am there every day; they know what car I drive, they know my schedule – how am I supposed to feel safe when I leave my office?

THIS will get vastly worse if there is a homeless shelter built here.

For 18 years on any given day I could walk out the back door of my office and hear the announcer at one of the fields and people cheering in the stands – it ALWAYS makes me smile. This is how it should be. If you choose to move forward with this project it is certain to destroy the youth sports programs and neighborhoods around it. I implore you to say no to this terrible proposal.

Thank you,

Brandy Haupt

Joe Valente
13683 N. Highway 88
Lodi, CA 95240
jcvalente@softcom.net

Lodi City Council
221 W Pine Street
Lodi, CA 95240
Submitted via email: citycouncil@lodi.gov

August 25,2020

Dear Council Members,

As a director of the Lodi Grape Festival, I strongly oppose the usage of the Lodi Armory and Chapman Field to create a low barrier homeless center and shelter.

I served several years as a director and also president of the San Joaquin County Fair Board in Stockton. As we conducted survey after survey, the fair received positive feedback as a venue for affordable entertainment, likeable exhibits, carnival, and food. On the negative side, survey respondents always came back with the image of poor public safety. Statistics showed that crime was not an issue but there was a predetermined image associated with the location of the fairgrounds. My concern is that the image of homeless around the Lodi Grape Festival grounds will easily lead to the image issues that the San Joaquin County Fair has. This image will become a financial burden on the Festival itself and will also impact the daily rentals. The public will not want to attend meetings or events held at the festival grounds.

As you may be aware, fairs throughout the state are facing difficult times. We should not be putting more burden on our festival grounds by having a homeless shelter next door. We want the public to want to come to our events- not stay away because they are uncomfortable with the neighborhood. The San Joaquin County Fair is now in the process of closing its doors. I hope that you understand your decisions can impact the financial future and image of the Lodi Grape Festival Grounds for years into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Valente". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Joe Valente
Lodi Grape Festival Director

From: [Skylar Shafer](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 6:50:26 AM

I am absolutely against a homeless city being placed in the heart of Lodi CA
You are placing it in an area that will bring down the value of existing homes, danger to those residents and weariness of attendees to the Grape Bowl. You are encouraging panhandling of attendees.
Homelessness should not be encouraged by building a city for them. They need rehabilitation. Too many hard working citizens are being challenged by freeloaders for space.

Skylar Shafer

From: pcullen@meehleis.com
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: NO Homeless City or Tiny Homes at Chapman Field!
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 12:47:40 PM
Importance: High

Please do NOT approve any homeless camps/cities or any 'tiny houses' at Chapman Field, or anywhere near Lawrence Park. This would not be a solution to anything!!!

Please call me to discuss.

Thank you,

Pete Cullen
423-9566

From: [Monica Fritz](#)
To: [Alan Nakanishi](#); [Mark Chandler](#); [Doug Kuehne](#); [City Council Comments](#); [JoAnne Mounce](#); [Steve Schwabauer](#); [Andrew Keys](#); [PRCS Commission Meeting Comments](#)
Subject: Opposition to Homeless Housing at Chapman
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 9:37:06 PM

Dear City Council,

I am adamantly opposed to using our sports facilities to house homeless. While our children have been unable to resume sports and activities, at some point they will be, and our facilities need to be preserved for their use! Our city lacks parks and playing fields yet in the last 6 months the homeless have already taken over the few nice parks we have left. Now a push from Mr. Schwabauer to use Chapman Field for a tiny house project? I think that some leaders in this community forgot that they work for the tax paying citizens of this town and decisions like this should have the input and approval of the taxpayers. Yet the night before the city council meeting, I'm learning of this ridiculous proposal is moving forward. We voiced our opinions on this matter weeks ago and all members of the board seemed to agree that Chapman was not a good place for a homeless camp. Then last week, again without public knowledge, port-a-potties, wash stations and a security guard were placed at Chapman at the cost of \$63,000. Leave our sports fields alone. Protect them, preserve them and work on getting our children back on them playing sports! Spend your time helping our businesses that are struggling and cleaning up our community, not housing homeless next to fields that are so important to our youth!

Sincerely,
Monica Fritz

2029 Edgewood Drive, Lodi
(209)598-8037

From: [Margaret Foley](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Opposition to Homeless Site
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 8:41:56 PM

I write to express my opposition to the planned homeless area at Stockton and Lawrence Streets and at Chapman Field and at the adjacent armory.

While the homeless situation in Lodi has spiraled out of control, this is not an appropriate location at which to offer help and assistance. Chapman Field and the softball complex are not under-utilized as some city officials claim. This area of Lodi is a neighborhood, with single-family homes across the street, a football stadium across another street, and an elementary school within walking distance. Find another location, or, better yet, not at all. Return the grant money. Listen to the citizens in Lodi!

Margaret Foley
605 W. Locust Street
Lodi

From: [Deanne Barth](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Please do NOT buy the building across from American Legion
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 1:29:44 PM

Dear City Council Members:

I have lived in Lodi for my entire life. I have built a family here, shopped here, bought homes here and have never wanted to leave our town.

But the situation you have allowed to happen with the homeless has gotten out of hand. It is no longer safe in the middle of town for my daughter to take the trash out behind her place of work. Mind you, this is in the middle of town, where it's always been considered safe.

I often feel unsafe leaving Safeway in broad daylight. What is happening to our town?

You have allowed this to get to the point it is today and now you want to do more damage by buying this building to house the homeless? Do you know what will happen to that entire area of Lodi? To the American Legion building? To nearby businesses? And how about the residents that live nearby?

It's obvious this isn't happening near your home or business.

Throwing money at this problem won't solve it.

Deanne Barth

From: [Alex Bolanos](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Please Reconsider The Purchase Tonight
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 2:11:45 PM

To whom it should concern,

I am a citizen of Lodi, a member of Lodi Musical Theater, and a friend to the Veterans of post 22. I have been informed that there will be a meeting today to discuss the purchase of the Army National Guard Recruiting office to transform it into a residence for the homeless. This building is across the street from The American Legion Memorial Building which has been the home of our Lodi Veterans of post 22 for as long as I can remember. If the building is purchased, then the Veterans will no longer be able to rent the building for their dinners, parties, and events; dramatically decreasing their funds and forcing them to close The American Legion.

I'm not one to go against helping the homeless, but when it comes to the sacrifice of our Veterans; that is where I draw my concern. The local Veterans of Lodi who have valiantly worked and fought for our country have already sacrificed enough. We need to be focused on giving back to those people, not taking away from them. There are plenty of abandoned places in Lodi that could house the homeless, without forcing the Veterans out of their home.

I have had the pleasure of being apart of Lodi Musical Theater for the past year. A company that not only produces the most amazing performances, but also uses the funds to help out the Veterans of post 22 and The American Legion. It makes theater worth way more to me knowing that it helps the local Veterans of Lodi. Not only would the Veterans lose their home, but LMT would lose their greater purpose. If The American Legion closes LMT could always find another place, they have in the past. However, the joy of making a difference for the Veterans will be lost, and the greater purpose of our performances would be diminished.

I urge the council to please consider a different location for a homeless residence. Many things will get worse more than they will be better. I understand that the council thinks purchasing the building would be the right thing, but the road to hell is paved with good intentions. Please don't eradicate the livelihood of the Veterans, my director, and me. There must be another way.

Sincerely,
Alex Bolanos

From: [Dorothy Thompson](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Purchase of a local bldg
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 9:56:07 PM

Please, please, please do not purchase the building across the American Legion building for eventually housing the homeless!! There are better places than this for housing the homeless! There are kids that use that area from Lawrence Elementary... PLEASE reconsider this decision!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

To: CityofLodi_CityManager <CityManager@lodi.gov<<mailto:CityManager@lodi.gov>>>
Subject: chapman field

As a local who has grown up here and am now raising 2 children here. I am admittedly opposed to Chapman field being used as a homeless shelter in our town.

I have attended several meetings at the city in regards to option for us to provide enough beds for the homeless population in Lodi. several sites had been discussed , like the site by smart and final or other location further down in the industrial area on Lodi ave. never was there discussion about taking away from the already sparse sports resource we have in this city. both my children play baseball or softball and Chapman is utilized all season long every day.

I also don't think this location is good for our down town area either.

please listen to the people! so many of us are speaking up!!

the tiny houses really doesn't solve even a dent into the issues of homeless in our community to take away our youth!

sincerely,

Aron Duda

concerned parent and citizen

Aron Duda

Area Director/ California Mentor

2291 W March Ln # E102

Stockton Ca

707 834 5552

-----Original Message-----

From: Marsha <marsha@lodiproperties.net>

Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 1:13 PM

To: City Council <CityCouncil@lodi.gov>

Subject: Armory building

As a person who was born and raised in Lodi I am very upset with the plans for the homeless in our town. I attend both sporting events and other venues in the immediate area that will be devastated if this goes through. Please do not let this happen to our town!

Thank you for your attention and consideration to this subject.

Marsha Lerza Yost

Sent from my iPhone

From: Tasso/Gertie <akngkkandris@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 3:18 PM

To: Janice Magdich <jmagdich@lodi.gov>

Subject: Proposed homeless location in Lodi

Dear Lodi City Attorney Ms. Magdich

Recently there was news that the area around the Lodi Armory and Chapman Field was being looked at to create a low barrier homeless center and shelter. As a director of the Lodi Grape Festival I strongly oppose this plan. In that area there are six event centers: the softball complex, Zupo Field, the Grape Bowl, the American Legion Hall, the Eagles Lodge and the Lodi Grape Festival grounds. A facility of this kind will indubitably increase the homeless population in Lodi and in the proposed area. Build it and they will come!

There is no way people would want to rent the above facilities with a homeless encampment at their front door. It is hard enough to rent our facilities now with the terrible homeless situation in and around Lawrence Park. On a daily basis the Lodi Grape Festival has to deal with damage, garbage and filth created by the homeless that are allowed to live unlawfully in Lawrence Park.

Hopefully the City Council and staff of the City of Lodi can go back to the drawing board and come up with a different location that won't be as negatively impact to one of the busiest parts of Lodi.

Kind Regards,

Anastassios Kandris, Member Legion Post 22

2093276251

From: [Amanda Oliver](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Re: HEAP - Tiny Home project
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 11:32:01 PM

Dear Mayor of Lodi and Lodi City Council Members,

My name is Amanda Oliver. I moved to the Lodi community in 1987.

I have a big concern and I am opposed to having the HEAP Project also known as the Tiny Homes project built where Chapman Field is located. I'm also concerned with the lack of transparency from the City of Lodi with regards to this project to the public.

I have many years of fond memories playing girls fast pitch softball and Co-ed softball at Chapman Field. I have many great memories watching my four children learn & play baseball at Chapman Field. I have watched many of my friends play co-ed softball tournaments at Chapman field. I've met many friends while playing softball at Chapman Field that I still keep in touch with at the present moment.

I was listening to the Parks Commission zoom meeting last night and they too agreed about the lack of transparency of the project to the public.

Think of the many children who will be walking past these tiny homes two times a day by themselves on their way to Lawrence School.

Think of the many students attending or playing baseball at Zupo Field.

Think of the many children watching or playing football or soccer games at the Grape Bowl which is on the same block. What about the many people who attend events at the Grape Festival Grounds? Would you like your children or grandchildren walking alone past these encampments where there are drug addicts or people with mental issues are housed? What about the many people who live across the street who worked so hard to purchase their homes to now have the values of their property lowered due to the homeless camp across the street?

Most often there's not even enough places where our children can practice or play softball or baseball, now the city council is willing to tear down the field for the homeless encampment? I don't want to sound insensitive to

the homeless, but giving them handouts or free housing isn't going to solve the homeless issues. Why not teach them to fish instead of giving them fish? I understand there's a need for housing for some people who are truly deserving to get their lives back on track, but we need to find another solution so that we can keep Lodi, Livable Lovable Lodi. We have been called "Little Napa" and Wine Country Destination". That will surely change fast and I surely don't want to see homeless people defecating on the sidewalks or alley ways or having sex in public while I'm visiting the downtown area with my young children.

Many small businesses are already having financial difficulties due to lack of business or closure, how will Lodi attract more new businesses or more tourism to Lodi with the Tiny housing project just two blocks away? Building the Tiny Homes for the homeless, will not fix our problems with our homeless situation in our town. Yes, we need a solution but not to the expense of our town.

We already have enough issues with the homeless disturbing the peace, loitering, vandalizing, stealing from our neighborhoods and businesses. Why are we going to build these tiny homes where there will be no rules, no rent, no accountability to attract more homeless people to come to Lodi. Let's find a different solution that will keep our town clean, safe and a place where our next generation will want to stay and live with their new generation.

Thank you and God Bless,
Amanda Oliver

From: [Sara Pohlman \(Morada Middle\)](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: residence across from American Legion hall
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 1:55:33 PM

The building across from the American Legion Hall is not an appropriate location for a residence for homeless people. The businesses in that area already struggle with the number of homeless and itinerant people who loiter in the area, making it so that few people want to visit businesses in that neighborhood. This decision will cause the American Legion to be unable to rent out their building, as no one will want to host fundraisers, weddings, concerts or other events in a location that is so close to a halfway house type residence. It's also near the softball complex and Grape Bowl, which attracts many Lodi teenagers and families. I don't think parents will feel safe dropping their kids off for an evening practice or game a block away from a halfway house.

I agree that there should be a residence for homeless people, but not in an area that Lodians are working hard to revitalize. This decision would be an insult to the veterans who have worked hard, served their country, and helped the community. They deserve their safe building and community.

Sara Pohlman

From: [Kris Christy](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: save our fields
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 11:23:11 AM

Good morning,

I am completely against removing our baseball fields and the armory to place a homeless city there. My kids have played and still play sports through the city of Lodi. Placing a homeless camp in the middle of town is not solving the problem. It will only exacerbate the problem. Why don't you ask the constituents of Lodi how to best resolve the homeless problem.

Concerned citizen,

Kris Christy

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

September 2, 2020

Dear City Counsel members,

Recently there was news that the area around the Lodi Armory and Chapman Field was being looked at to create a low barrier homeless center and shelter. As a director of the Lodi Grape Festival I strongly oppose this plan. In that area there are six event centers: the softball complex, Zupo Field, the Grape Bowl, the American Legion Hall, the Eagles Lodge and the Lodi Grape Festival grounds. A facility of this kind will undoubtedly increase the homeless population in Lodi and in the proposed area. Build it and they will come!

There is no way people would want to rent the above facilities with a homeless encampment at their front door. It is hard enough to rent our facilities now with the terrible homeless situation in and around Lawrence Park. On a daily basis, the Lodi Grape Festival must deal with damage, garbage and filth created by the homeless that are allowed to live unlawfully in Lawrence Park.

Hopefully, the City Council and staff of the City of Lodi can go back to the drawing board and come up with a different location that will not be as negatively impactful to one of the busiest parts of Lodi.

Sincerely,



Adeline Muller

From: [Angee Wangsgard](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Supporting people who are Homeless
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 6:05:12 PM

Thank you for considering how we can best help people who are Homeless within Lodi. I support the effort and am looking forward to creating a plan that works the best for those involved. I am writing to urge you not to locate the shelter across the street from the American Legion Veterans building. This building is an important part of fundraising in this city, and it benefits veterans. The location is already in a struggling part of town and I can't imagine why it would be a good idea to build a shelter here. I envision it in a different location, maybe closer to a thriving business district, like the Walmart or Target area? Please consider a different location for the shelter that will benefit both homeless people in Lodi and also the veterans.

Thank you very much,
Angela Wangsgard

From: [buzzyd](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: The homeless plan
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 9:38:41 AM

I am writing regarding the homeless camp your planning on putting in at champman field. How can this be considered as there is a elementary school really close by and now you are going to expose young children to the antics that homeless people do. They shut up and drink and sometimes expose themselves in public. I know for a fact santa cruz County tried this and it failed the homeless people destroyed the camp and wouldnt use the bathrooms and dispose of trash where it was suppose to go. When they finally removed them it was a toxic waste land. Please reconsider the location of this camp as it is not in a good location especially with a school being so close and be considerty for the neighborhood. Would you allow this camp to be built in your neighborhood? If this camp is to open you are now opening up outside homeless coming into our community. The need for the homeless is being reformed and reentered into society. They don't need a camp to enforce what they have already gotten wrong. We need to help them.out by let them reenter society an be productive, all the camp will do it allow them to remain the way they are stuck for now as have no where else to go. A camp isn't going to help that.

Sincerely,

A very concerned citizen

Cheryl Deckert

Ps I have seen what can happen if you are to do this kind of camp and it will destroy this community.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [Nicole Howton](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: The Homeless Problem
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 1:31:36 PM

Dear City Council of Lodi,

While we as residents of Lodi understand the enormity of the homeless problem in our community, we are also very protective of our businesses.

Yes, it would be the compassionate thing to do to give the homeless a place of safety to rest. But it is dangerous for businesses and for the safety of our citizens to put a homeless shelter near a residential area, the fair grounds and operating businesses.

The building across the street from the American Legion Memorial Building should absolutely not be a place of respite for the homeless for so many reasons!

The primary being that that American Legion Memorial Building will be forced to close. Post 22 will no longer be able to rent the American Legion building for parties, events, funerals, fundraisers with a homeless shelter across the street.

The ballet school will close.

Lodi Musical Theater will lose our rehearsal space.

The Veterans of Post 22 will lose their home.

So much will be lost.

Even now, with the few homeless that frequent the adjacent park, I have been harassed multiple times, threatened and followed leaving the American Legion building as have all of my cast members.

And these disturbances happen with just a handful of homeless.

Are you not understanding how dangerous it will be to have hundreds coming and going from the building across the street?

Our businesses, our livelihood, our religious worship, our freedoms, our school Children are being dismissed by a governor who seems intent on controlling our way of life and destroying our economy for his own political gain.

Please show the citizens of Lodi that you care more about those of us who work hard, pay our taxes, pay our utilities, shop at local businesses and do all we can by the sweat of our brow to make this city a safe place to live even in a State that grows more dangerous by the day.

Show us that we as the working class of this community are important to you.

Do not put a homeless shelter near businesses or the Grape Festival.

Nicole Howton
Director/Lodi Musical Theater

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Gar Wright](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: The Lodi Armory as a homeless shelter
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 10:20:33 AM

I am most definitely opposed to using the armory building to house the homeless. I am a veteran and a resident of this community since 1965. I am a life member of the American Legion.

The Legion does everything in their power to care for our veterans. They use the parking lot adjacent to the legion building for parking during their annual crab feed and other events that they use to make money for our veterans.

Are you going to place security around the armory building and the American Legion building? Is this parking area going to become a “problem”. Will you deny parking to the guests and the members of the American Legion who have used the parking lot for their social events, weddings, etc.? Is there going to be loss of life, injury and damage to property and vehicles? Are you prepared to take responsibility for that?

Providing lodging across the street from the American Legion building is not the answer. If you must spend our tax dollars on permanent residence for these people, do it somewhere else.

I also was a board member for the Lodi Grape Festival for many years. I know you have spoken with Mark Armstrong about the homeless problem. The problem is getting worse and as a city Council your answer should not be providing them housing, you should be thinking of the citizens and And not making this area “a good place to go”. They’re back under the Hiway 99 Bridge using the river as their personal toilet and garbage everywhere. Some of these people will never move. What are you going to do about that? I know Caltrans is responsible but how about a bigger push from the city of Lodi. Spend some time there. Not trying to renovate the armory into another cesspool

The Blue Line matters. Spend your money and Mine on the Lodi police Department

Start thinking about who’s paying the taxes and what out priorities are, before you spend our money please. Thank you

Garland Wright
1201 Rivergate Dr, Lodi, CA 95240
209-327-0420

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Gar Wright 209.327.0420

From: [Jim Locke](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Tom Chapman Field
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 9:29:39 AM

Hello City Council,

Today's Lodi News headline article about the decision soon to be made kind of presses my "hot button". The tradition abbreviation of **NIMBY, Not In My Back Yard**" is surely a constant fight for you folks trying to make the best decisions possible. The Lodi News article could have uncovered a lot more local public involvement of that Tom Chapman sports complex. I for one have been involved with playing Senior Slow Pitch Softball there for 33 years. The senior softball league typically has had 8 teams, 6 of which play on Monday and Thursday evenings with two teams having a "bye" in a rotating basis to share the "off nights". This "Senior league" operates from March through September annually, with evening play starting at 6:00 PM with three consecutive games. Each player provides/pays a sizable annual entry fee to join the good health and fun activity. This past year was \$95/person. A significant fee has been paid to the Lodi Recreation Dept. to be able to use Chapman Field, in the thousands of dollars. Many times in the past we (the Senior League) have attempted to use or ask for use of the "complex's" fields nearer the Railroad corridor without success because those two other fields are scheduled for other user's activities. This message is sent along to help you be aware of the more extensive uses going on "Pre-Pandemic" at Tom Chapman Field.

Your decision in process, maybe being finalized this evening, 9-2-20, is important in many ways. If you would please pass these thoughts along to Steve Schwabauer as the City's Web-sight does not appear to provide a path for the public to communicate directly to him and the fine job is is doing for us all.

As a small counterpoint to the City shutting down all the sports fields since early in the year, myself and many others see it as "counter-productive" in the health area as I'm 83 yrs., on no medications, and feel my involvement with the Senior Softball league's physical activity and positive human interactions is a significant reason why I'm healthier than many in my age demographics.

Sincerely,

Jim Locke

209-329-5408 M

511 Willow Glen Drive

Lodi, CA 95240

jnblocke@sbcglobal.net

From: [DOUG RADER](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Use of Chapman Field & Armory for Homeless
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 2:36:54 PM

Dear City Council:

I am writing in strong opposition to use of the Armory &/or Chapman Field for housing of homeless in any form.

The proposal to use this location for tiny houses seems to be last minute in nature as the deadline for use of the funds is rapidly approaching and the previously identified Lodi Ave sites are now deemed unsuitable. Staff has had since 2018 to identify and determine the acceptability of appropriate sites, yet the decision is now rushed.

The site is problematic for a number of reasons. I will cite my two primary concerns.

It's proximity to Lawrence School, adjacent youth and adult sports areas, the American Legion Building and the Grape Festival Grounds make the site unacceptable for the proposed use. School children, parents and attendees of functions at those facilities will very likely be subjected to aggressive panhandling and any one of the more unsavory habits commonly associated with the homeless population including public urination, defecation, drug use, yelling and profanity, and indecent exposure.

As a result attendance of the numerous events at the American Legion, Grape Festival Grounds and the athletic facilities will suffer accordingly and there will be a negative economic impact felt by the entire community, not only in terms of direct attendance but also indirect revenue in the form of less spending in the community on things such as gas, food, hotel and motel stays.

Chapman Field is regularly used by both adult and youth sports programs and has been for generations. Obviously use is less frequent due to COVID restrictions, but that should be a temporary situation. It is not in the best interest of the citizens to convert an existing sports facility to a homeless community.

Certainly there are more appropriate locations for this project. I sympathize that the city manager and council members are tasked with making a quick decision due to timeline of availability of funds, but do not make a rushed decision which will negatively impact this community for years to come.

Again, I stand in strong opposition to converting the Armory &/or Chapman Field to any use as a homeless facility or community.

I urge you to vote against this proposal and direct staff to quickly identify a more appropriate and suitable location.

Respectfully,

Doug Rader

From: [Ryan Kosanke](#)
To: [City Council](#); linda.kosanke1@gmail.com
Subject: Vote No! Parks and bums-homeless problem
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 9:47:45 AM

Dear city council,

I am a concerned citizen who is fed up with the homeless bums who are staining beautiful Lodi.

Please do not designate the Armory and park areas for these vagrants to take over with their filth and drug use. It's been a problem in Lodi finding discarded needles in parks and even outside businesses we visit, how can this be acceptable and allied to perpetuate by the elected officials of this city? Vote No for that area!

We live on Calaveras St across from Lawrence elementary school, which puts us directly in the neighborhood effected by the bums and addicts going to the park and Armory areas. So many kids want and need to use these parks and ball fields to play and flourish, but this will be encroachment on the children's play areas. Vote No for that area!

Further more, this is bad because of the kids taking ballet lessons at American Legion. We and other parents were harassed last year by the homeless people who set up camp At the baseball field and by The Armory. There was an instance of a female bum defacating 15 feet from the door of the ballet lessons when parents and kids were leaving. This is unacceptable! Please think of the Lodi children and Vote No for this location!

Do you want this filth and danger where your children or grandchildren play or take lessons?

Thanks,
Ryan Kosanke
916-335-4457

From: [Ria Jones](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: WRONG LOCATION
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 10:30:36 AM

Council member

This email is to implore you to NOT put the homeless people at the Armory and Chapman field.

My husband has been the building manager at the American Legion the last 20 years. The veterans of this community matter and how we serve our community will be destroyed with the homeless right across the street from our building. The American Legion building on Washington Street was built between 1946 and 1950, officially opening in 1950.

The American Legion Post 22 has been part of the Lodi community for a 100 years. They started out at Micke Grove. There is a monument there in front of the administration building testifying to the fact.

For decades, yes decades, all our local school sports groups, booster clubs, student organizations have used our building to do their fundraisers. This benefits our veteran programs and the student sports programs at the schools and our city. Additionally, church groups, family events, medical screening events, social groups, celebration of life and so much more use our venue.

For years we have battled with the destruction, vandalism, filth, and threats delivered by the homeless. We have called LPD many times. We had to install a security system and cameras to help us protect the property. The situations only gets worse.

If this proposal goes through, it will effectively destroy the American Legion. After Covid-19 shutdowns we are suffering greatly. Non profits depend on fundraising, community donations in order to provide services and now a fatal shot from the city council????? Many of our members are alarmed and upset. We honestly think we will have to close it up and just let the cobwebs take over. We are not kidding.

Not one city official has contacted anyone at the American Legion. Shameful. I know, I am the secretary there.

If you choose the Armory and Chapman field as the homeless site (encampment), think about the cost to our community. Not just the buildings surrounding it but what services it provides a huge swath of our citizens.

Please vote NO on the proposal. The people do not want this. Find more suitable location.

Ria Jones
430 Swallow Lane.
Lodi CA

From: [Ramon Yepez](#)
To: [City Council Comments](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Agenda Item Number H-02 (Resolution Regarding Tiny Homes Project)
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 3:57:10 PM

TO BE CLEAR, THIS IS MY PUBLIC COMMENT FOR AGENDA ITEM NUMBER H-02 FOR THE 09/02/2020 LODI CITY COUNCIL MEETING. IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS IS HOW THE CITY IS ALLOWING CITIZENS TO VERBALLY ADDRESS ISSUES AT COUNCIL MEETINGS.

Good Evening -

My name is Ramon Yepez and I am running for Lodi City Council (District 4).

Tonight's decision would essentially create a homeless shelter at Armory Park in the East Side.

It's a rushed decision being made without consulting the residents in the houses surrounding the park and without taking into account the long-term fiscal impact on all residents of Lodi.

The grant money only covers the costs of construction. Who will be responsible for operational costs and maintenance costs throughout the years? Will this responsibility fall on taxpayers?

According to the Lodi Improvement Committee, the project requires an additional \$250,000 for what's referred to as the "balance of the costs". Will this responsibility also fall on taxpayers?

And why is the shelter being built on the East Side? Why not in Rosegate? Why not in Reynolds Ranch? Why not in any other area of Lodi other than the East Side? This is a citywide problem that is being dumped on the East Side, over-budget and without approval from the residents most affected.

Interestingly, on the same night the city is voting to create the East Side homeless shelter, it is also voting to allow Reynolds Ranch to build well over 100 low-to-medium density units (the type of units that ensure that the housing stock remains unaffordable, as opposed to high-density units which are affordable and, thus, help the overall homeless problem).

It's ironic that at the same meeting where the city is merely putting a patch on the overall homeless problem by approving the East Side homeless shelter, it's also making the overall problem even worse by approving the construction of yet more unaffordable housing.

The city is rushing headlong into a project that will not have any meaningful impact on the homeless problem, will destroy property values in the surrounding neighborhood,

and will lead to a tax increase on all residents to pay for the unexpected costs.

If a homeless shelter is the solution the city has decided on, the decision to approve it needs to be delayed to ensure that all those affected by it have their voices heard.

The city also needs to consider areas other than the East Side. A citywide problem is a citywide responsibility. There's space in Rosegate and Reynolds Ranch for this shelter. Were those locations even considered by the city? Why does the East Side have to lose a park so the rest of the city doesn't have to do its fair share to handle the homelessness problem?

This is why district elections were necessary - to ensure that residents of the East Side are considered in decisions that affect them.

Ramon Yopez

Candidate for City Council (District 4)

September 2, 2020

Dear City Counsel members,

Recently there was news that the area around the Lodi Armory and Chapman Field was being looked at to create a low barrier homeless center and shelter. As a director of the Lodi Grape Festival I strongly oppose this plan. In that area there are six event centers: the softball complex, Zupo Field, the Grape Bowl, the American Legion Hall, the Eagles Lodge and the Lodi Grape Festival grounds. A facility of this kind will undoubtedly increase the homeless population in Lodi and in the proposed area. Build it and they will come!

There is no way people would want to rent the above facilities with a homeless encampment at their front door. It is hard enough to rent our facilities now with the terrible homeless situation in and around Lawrence Park. On a daily basis, the Lodi Grape Festival must deal with damage, garbage and filth created by the homeless that are allowed to live unlawfully in Lawrence Park.

Hopefully, the City Council and staff of the City of Lodi can go back to the drawing board and come up with a different location that will not be as negatively impactful to one of the busiest parts of Lodi.

Sincerely,



Adeline Muller

From the desk of **Michael.**

Jean P. Molamphy

Oppose homeless
at Armory and
Chapman field;

1. Not compatible
with Armory, American
Legion, Eagles, and
nearby homes;
The Legion has suffered
thefts, vandalism & fire
& trash problems caused by
homeless.
I had burglary by

MICHAEL J. MOLAMPHY, O.D.

315 W. Pine St., Suite 9 Lodi, CA 95240

747-3010

youreyesonlymj@m
@yahoo.com.

homeless entering
my office a yrs
ago. loss \$200+

∴ Set up a camp
east of Hwy. 99,
far from small
businesses and homes.

I have helped homeless
in Lodi, including \$100
to Red Cross, and
\$\$ to Salvation Army.

MJM

From: [Hector Madrigal](#)
To: [City Council Comments](#)
Subject: Comment on Agenda Item C-12
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020 10:15:52 PM

I want to leave a comment on Agenda Item C-12 for September 2, 2020 City Council Meeting:

"Good evening everyone. I want to commend the Lodi City Council and the Committee on Homelessness for the work they have put in over the years on this Tiny Homes Project with 'housing first' in mind. While I wish it was completed faster and with less money, I would still like to lend my voice and support behind the Tiny Homes Project and the potential site at Tom Chapman Field. We know that these five housing units will not cause all of the homeless population to live in that particular area, and such a notion is absurd. This 'housing first' approach has been shown to significantly improve the lives of the newly housed, and it reduces long-term costs of taking care of chronically homeless individuals. I realize this program might seem unorthodox to some citizens, but it is time for us to innovate and create new solutions to long-time problems in our society.

One Love,

Hector Madrigal, candidate for Lodi City Council District 5."

--

Hector Madrigal
<http://www.votehector.us>

From: Donald Massengill <midsecure@yahoo.com>

Date: September 2, 2020 at 4:37:13 PM PDT

To: Steve Schwabauer <sschwabauer@lodi.gov>, Doug Kuehne <dkuehne@lodi.gov>, Mark Chandler <mchandler@lodi.gov>, JoAnne Mounce <jmounce@lodi.gov>, Alan Nakanishi <anakanishi@lodi.gov>, John Ledbetter <John@vinofarms.net>

Subject: homeless support letter

guys and joanne
here is my support letter for tonight
Council

8/31/2020

I have been a member of the committee on homelessness, for approximately three years and in that time, we have accomplished a lot the and I was in charge of the 2018 point in time homeless count in Lodi which was one of the best counts this county has ever had.

This proposal that the city staff is proposing is probably the best solution we can ever come up with and will work and I know we all here it not in my back yard well it has to go somewhere and we are still under the 9th circuit court ruling which has the city and this groups hands tied till we can come up with a solution of providing a bed for each person that is homeless,

The council knows my background and will not go into it I will say this that with all the work they have done on this project this is going to solve most and if not all of the issues once this project goes to full build out and will be able to help not only the homeless but the low income and seniors in the city also for services to witch still need to be figured out and so on

Donald Massengill member of the committee

And small business owner adj Services of Ca which will be doing a soft opening in Jan. 2020

Donald Massengill
president
ADJ Services -ca

Julia Tyack
425 West Walnut Street, Apt. #4
Lodi, CA 95240

September 2, 2020

Dear Councilmembers Kuehne, Mounce, Chandler and Nakanishi:

I am writing to express my strong support of the City's Tiny Home Project.

As both a long-time resident and a City employee, I am impressed with the sense of community pride expressed by our citizens, City Council, City Management team, and employees.

Lodi is a very special community. We have a unique sense of place, and we care about each other. Our community members are involved in nonprofit organizations, churches and service groups, and they are generous with their time and resources. We have partnered on a multitude of projects that have led to an improved quality of life for all Lodi citizens.

In this way, we are fortunate to have a diverse group of organizations working together to address our homelessness concerns, including Lodi's Committee on Homelessness, San Joaquin Continuum of Care, Take Back Lodi, Salvation Army, Lodi House, Women's Center Youth and Family Services and the SJ Housing Authority. We are not alone in our struggle with homelessness, but members of our community are uniquely committed to addressing these issues together.

The Tiny Home project is a critical first step toward tackling homelessness in Lodi. These homes will be part of the transitional housing component of our strategic plan to address homelessness, and they will provide safety, dignity and hope to struggling individuals in our community. Tenants will go through a stringent referral process, the project will be properly managed by the Housing Authority of San Joaquin, and those who are selected to live in the homes will not take this opportunity for granted.

I urge you to move forward on the Tiny Home project. Tackling homelessness is not an easy process, and we have a long way to go. But this project is a strategic, critical first step in the right direction, and we need to ensure that we do not lose the \$1.25 million that has been awarded. Successful implementation of this project will set us up to receive more expansive funding assistance in the future, and we will steadily make progress on keeping Lodi livable and lovable for all citizens.

Thank you,

Julia Tyack



975 S. Fairmont Ave.
Lodi, CA 95240
209-334-3411
AdventistHealthLodiMemorial.org

Dear City Council,

Homelessness, we know, is not going to be resolved if we continue to do what we've been doing. Change occurs when we begin to act differently, when we begin to think differently. There is no simple solution to homelessness. We can all agree on that. If there were, no one would be homeless. The 2019 San Joaquin County Point in Time Count saw 139 homeless individuals here in Lodi. While we do have services in Lodi such as the Salvation Army, which provides temporary shelter, we do not have a more permanent solution in our City for those impacted by homelessness.

During my involvement with the Lodi Committee on Homelessness (LCOH), transparency has never eluded any of the meetings. Honest conversations have taken place and will continue to take place even after a decision on this matter is made. Opinions expressed by concerned citizens as well as LCOH committee members have been taken into consideration. The HEAP Tiny Home Project was a thoroughly vetted project. Potential properties were analyzed, and consideration was given to the location, taking into account services provided around it. There are wrap around services and community partners here in Lodi, and in our county that can work together to make this project a successful one.

Our Mayor, Doug Kuehne, and our City Manager, Steve Schwabauer, have done a commendable job educating themselves on the matter. I trust that with their leadership, the best decision will be made. I'd like to express my support of the HEAP Tiny Homes in our City.

Sincerely,

Katherine Gonzales

Katherine Gonzales, MPH | Manager | Community Integration
Adventist Health Lodi Memorial | 975 S. Fairmont Ave. | Lodi, CA 95240
P 209-339-7590 | E Gonzalk02@ah.org | AdventistHealth.org/LodiMemorial

From: [David Diskin](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Letter Regarding "Tiny Homes" at Armory Park
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 11:46:19 AM

Lodi City Council,

I understand that there is concern throughout the community about the proposed "Tiny Homes" project and it's proposed location at Armory Park.

Let's examine a few of the comments on [just one post](#) on Facebook from yesterday about the proposal:

- "Not the right place for something like this. ... Nor is it right to put it across from the existing homes on Stockton St. ... Would be great somewhere near San Joaquin General Hospital in French Camp." – Denise Wiman
- "San Francisco is the perfect place." – Gunnar Nissen
- "San Francisco." – Chris Arbour
- "The old meat plant off highway 99 by Woodbridge road is a good spot for this project as well." – Nathan Clay
- "lots of city land near the waste treatment plant on I-5." – John Haynes
- "I agree...how about bussing them out just like they bus them in." – Betty Stafford-Goble

I think it's clear that **no matter what location is chosen** there will be a loud, angry contingent within the city. The NIMBY effect is heavy in Lodi.

You have three options:

1. Ignore the NIMBY effect and select the best location within city limits that will serve the homeless community and better everyone's lives.
2. Appease the NIMBY people and select a site far away from city resources with limited transportation, employment, and food.
3. Do nothing and let the problem continue to grow and foster, further impacting emergency resources like our hospital and first responders.

We **must** address this problem locally. We **must** provide people with an opportunity to better themselves. We **must** give them resources that are easily accessible.

We **cannot** keep kicking this down the road. We **cannot** expect the homeless to travel back and forth to I-5 for resources and shelter. We **cannot** do nothing.

You were elected to make decisions, sometimes tough ones that are unpopular but good for the city

as a whole – not just those with a voice or personal interests. You asked city employees, social experts, local non-profits, the county, and your community for advice. **These advisors have told you that Armory Park is the best location and that it needs to happen now.** Please support their recommendation.

Thank you,

-David Diskin

2250 Scarborough Drive #30, Lodi, CA 95240

August 31, 2020

Mayor Doug Kuehne:

As the former City of Lodi library director, I am aware of the toll homelessness wages against those individuals and families who find themselves in this devastating social cycle. The many issues the homeless population face prevent individuals from resolving the situation on their own. They need a helping hand to escape the cycle of unemployment, homelessness, hunger, etc.

The comprehensive plan proposed by the San Joaquin Continuum of Care addresses the multitude of issues facing the homeless population and the community. It presents a positive, constructive process for real change in the lives of the homeless and for the benefit of the community. In addition, moving forward with the initial Tiny Homes Project will set Lodi on this road to recovery.

I support and urge the council's support of Lodi's Tiny Homes Project and the comprehensive countywide plan to deal structurally with the issues of homelessness in San Joaquin County.

Sincerely,

Nancy C. Martinez

Good evening, my name is Nati Bowman and I am an employee of a small, family-run Lodi business, a founder and director of an all-volunteer nonprofit and community center that serves homeless folks on the East Side, and a candidate for Lodi City Council District 4.

But tonight I'd like to speak to you simply as a fellow Lodian. We must set aside polarizing rhetoric and come together as a community, working for what is best for our city and those who live in it. This includes the unhoused.

Solving homelessness is an unachievable goal. But, we can use proven strategies and well-planned programs to provide a pathway for those who want and are willing to get off the streets. I believe that each one of us has a civic and moral responsibility to provide assistance to others in need as best we can while being diligent stewards of our resources.

City staff, stakeholders in the community, individual citizens and local businesses have made the above possible for the first time in a long time for Lodi. The plans before the Council today are well thought out, informed by diverse, experienced stakeholders, and will drastically improve many problems that we here in Lodi are tired of and concerned about.

The location is cost effective because most of it is already owned by the City and the Tiny Homes are funded by grants, not Lodi tax payers or private donations like current homeless interventions are. If we care about fiscal responsibility, we must vote yes.

The block is already overrun with homeless people and ugly chain link fencing due to its location, but with the proposed tiny homes and center, there would be constant care of the grounds. If we care about the beautification and accessibility of our city, we must vote yes.

There is currently no staff consistently providing oversight or security for the area, but trained professionals on site would assist with this. If we care about our children and their safety, we must vote yes.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this very important issue.

To the Lodi City Council,

I hope you are all doing well and are in good health.

I would like to respectfully share my stance on homelessness and offer another viewpoint. Everything stated below is based on opinion and my personal experiences. It is not a critique on anyone or some political statement.

People experiencing homelessness, those living outside, or those who do not have permanent addresses have been stigmatized and vilified for a long time. Oftentimes, their existence is tied to claims of “laziness,” drug-use and their circumstances being their fault. Homelessness is not an “us” versus “them” issue. It is a universal issue in which initiatives that alleviate rather than punish must be passed.

Those individuals in this program will have put in the hard-work to graduate from Lodi House, Salvation Army, and the Stockton Women’s Shelter programs. They will have shown dedication in trying to better their own lives, learn the life skills to be self-sufficient members of our society and will be taking advantage of these programs. No funds will be taken from the City of Lodi budget as this is federally funded.

Oftentimes, employers and the job market require permanent addresses, bank-accounts are required for payments, and some form of stability. Those living outside do not have access to many of these things. How can many of them work and be functioning and contributing members of society when they do not have the basic tools to do so. The passing of this initiative will help remedy these issues. Affordable and accessible housing encourages them to become more industrious members of our society.

In regards to my personal perspective I offer a small token of insight. I am a part of three medical clinics in which we offer free healthcare to those experiencing homelessness. The trauma of living outside is immense both mentally and physically. Many do not have access to adequate, unobstructed healthcare. The trauma of living on the streets is both physical and mental.

Homelessness is a reflection of *us* as a society in which we often punish people of our community for not having the same opportunities, privileges and accessibilities that we do. This is not a political issue and this initiative is not “enabling homelessness.” This is a human issue. The passing of this initiative is not a hand-out. It is a helping hand.

During a global pandemic in which those living outside are often at the forefront of catching deadly viruses and diseases, we need to practice kindness rather than forcing accountability. To be human is to show empathy. We do not need to experience homelessness to help others out of it. Our support will change lives. We must exercise kindness above everything else.

With all of that being said, I implore members of the City Council to support the passage of the Tiny Homes Initiative.

Thank you,

Muhammad T.

To the Lodi City Council,

We hope you are all doing well.

We, those listed below, would like to respectfully write to the council in support of the tiny homes initiative. Our country is in the midst of both a housing and a homeless crisis, both of which have been compounded by the pandemic. A census published by the White House in 2018 found that over half a million Americans face homelessness each night and those numbers have only risen in the past 2 years.

In the last 6 months, as people have lost their jobs and been unable to make rent, those numbers have sky-rocketed. The tiny homes project is funded by a federal grant, requiring residents of the proposed 8 to 9 units to pay only a fraction of the rent on these units, thereby providing them a place to live as they regain their financial stability. Many of these prospective residents are mothers caring for their children and women escaping abusive relationships. Those facing homelessness are vulnerable members of our society deserving of our compassion and regard.

For those who would oppose this initiative with concerns associated with open access homeless shelters, we would like to emphasize that that is not the intent of this project.

It is important to again note that this will not be the first step these residents have taken to getting off the streets; these are graduates of the Lodi House, Salvation Army, and Stockton Women's Shelter programs. Under these programs, prospective residents have taken life skills courses and shown dedication to rejoining society as productive and self-sufficient members.

No money is being allocated from the City of Lodi budget; the project is entirely grant funded. As such, no city services will suffer to allow for the budget of the project and we therefore fail to see a reason not to move forward with the initiative.

The names below implore the Lodi City Council to vote in favour of the initiative.

Thank you for your time.

1. Samuel Wright
2. Sydney Utley
3. Ruth Hernandez
4. Paige Daniel
5. Samantha Little
6. Elyssa Santana
7. Devin Franklin
8. Nevan Bell
9. Muhammad Tariq
10. Jenna Dougherty
11. Joan Utley
12. Caroline Seibly
13. Monica Villa
14. Angelo Paternostro
15. Kylee Guthrie
16. Kylie Maguire
17. Annie Andrews
18. Paige Mattei
19. Karen Mattei
20. Scott Mattei
21. Brandon Nelson
22. Elliot Locke
23. Jay Saleh
24. Darby McCauley
25. Areesh Ilyas
26. Cameron Mitchell
27. Abby hildenbrand
28. Aubrey andrews
29. Maria Valenzuela
30. Dylan O'ryan
31. Shanley
Moran-Mcauley
32. Alfredo Santana
33. Hayden Lewis
34. Katelyn Eproson
35. William Kim
36. Madison Rivero
37. Mariah Besabe
38. Madisun Eisenbeis
39. Austin Costa
40. James Sunseri
41. Kayla Love
42. Déna Mohseni
43. Malika Haji
44. Tahla Bahnasi
45. Andrew Heryford
46. Emily Souza
47. Mallory
Bettencourt
48. Rawan Karaki
49. Reina Karaki
50. Angel Cortez
51. Corrin Clemons
52. Elizabeth Hershey
53. Alyssa Fuentes
54. Melisa Perez
55. Amanda Moe
56. Tony El-Sokkary
57. Jasmin Gill
58. Jessa Itliong
59. Sundus Khan
60. Sharan Kalkat
61. Amber Jones
62. Kylie Yamada
63. Melody Shiau
64. Nikolina Bilkic
65. Sophia Blake
66. Ryan Taylor
67. Hayley Neadeau
68. Jasmin Tran
69. Kyra Liu
70. Aqsa Jaffar
71. Samantha Sek
72. Giselle Victoria
Ortiz -Gutierrez
73. Mohinder Pal
Singh
74. Inder Singh Chatha
75. Surjit Chatha
76. Harman Kalcut
77. Karam Kaur
78. Emma Canepa
79. Michelle Meza
80. Ava Canestrino
81. Marcos Lopez
82. Frenly Espino
83. Charlotte Suiza
84. ally quesada
85. daniel franklin
86. alexis baker
87. Zoe Levit
88. Margaret Levit
89. Stephen Levit
90. Emersyn White
91. Ala Rahman
92. Omar Altamimi
93. Hamad Arif
94. Shambhavi Mishra
95. Lena Quan
96. Jasmine Daragahi
97. Shahinaz Ishac
98. Maya Bahnasy
99. Christine Pham
100. Sarah Islas
101. Yvon Sanchez



Established in 1999

August 8, 2020

Mayor Doug Kuehne,

www.lodihouse.org
info@lodihouse.org

801 S. Washington St.
Lodi, CA 95240

209.334.6346

Founders

Jim & Annette Murdaca

Board of Directors

Rebecca Carroll
Claire Forsythe
Capt. David Griffin
Michelle Munoz
Dave Payne
Christi Weybret
Mandy Whatley

Executive Director

Shelby Young

*Lodi House
provides
compassionate
support, counseling
and shelter to
homeless women and
children to empower
them to live
courageous, healthy
and independent
lives.*

This letter is to show support to the Council as an advocate of Lodi's Tiny Homes Project.

The Lodi House has been an advocate for unsheltered women and children in our community for the past 20 years. One of our clients' greatest barriers in establishing long term stability is affordable housing. Lodi's Tiny Homes Project offers real solutions for this barrier.

Lodi House clients would benefit from having housing available in close proximity to an elementary school, sports facilities as well as programs and continued support services, therapy and accountability through Lodi House's Suzanne Mangum Enrichment Center located at 356 East Walnut Street.

Lodi House envisions utilizing the tiny homes for its graduates as long as the environment and surrounding areas provide a safe, drug free, family friendly environment that supports and encourages a new mindset for Lodi House graduate's success. Lodi House believes providing resources with accountability and establishing healthy relationships are key components in helping individuals overcome cycles of poverty to achieve long term stability. Therefore, I encourage the council to keep these in mind when determining how to address the increasing concerns of homelessness in our community.

Sincerely,



Shelby Young
Lodi House Executive Director

Anne Margo Cortes
8 North California Street
Lodi, CA 95240
September 1, 2020

Dear City Councilmembers Mounce, Kuehne, Nakanishi, and Chandler:

As a homeowner in Downtown Lodi sharing a fence with Emerson Park, the location of a regular homeless encampment during the day, I can understand the frustrations of my fellow Lodi citizens who are worried about making Lodi hospitable to homeless people and inadvertently encouraging more homeless people to come to Lodi.

However, I recognize that there is more going on with the homelessness situation in our town than meets the eye, and looking over the FAQs for the HEAP Tiny Homes Project, I can tell that the benefits of this project greatly outweigh the costs.

First, it is incredibly important for my fellow Lodians who are currently opposed to this project to understand that the people who will be living in these homes are not drug addicts who spend their days lounging around wreaking havoc on our community. They are not miscellaneous individuals who have arrived from other cities to take advantage of our resources. They are instead simply low-income Lodi families who have found themselves in hard times and need a hand right now. As stated in the FAQs for the HEAP Tiny Homes Project, the individuals and families who would be living in these tiny homes must go through a vetting process set in place through our well-run local organizations, specifically the Salvation Army, Lodi House, and the Women's Center Youth and Family Services. Who doesn't know someone whose life is in upheaval due to our current economic situation? Right now is a time when we most need to be granting our neighbors grace.

Second, as stated in the FAQs of the HEAP Tiny Homes Project, all of the residents will be required to pay 30% of their monthly income on rent. Anyone who is investing their hard-earned money, particularly someone with a low income for whom every dollar makes an enormous difference, is going to be invested in taking care of their home if they are having to contribute to their rent.

Third, individuals who are homeless or at risk of being homeless have an enormous incentive to keep a roof over their head once they have one. Having the privilege of being approved to live in one of the tiny homes is something that the residents are going to be grateful for every day, and they are going to undoubtedly make a concerted effort to keep earning the right to live in their tiny home.

Fourth, as stated in the FAQs for the HEAP Tiny Homes Project, the major consequence of not building the tiny homes is that the City would completely lose the funding it has been awarded. The \$1,250,000 of grant money to help tackle our homelessness issue in Lodi is not money that we can afford to throw away, which is exactly what we would be doing if

we let the fears created by a lack of understanding of how the project really works blind us from seeing that this project is actually an asset to our community.

Fifth, and most important of all, in order for the City of Lodi to receive additional funding to tackle our homelessness issue further, we must first demonstrate that we have made an effort to effectively address it, which is exactly what the HEAP Tiny Homes Project does. It is extremely important for our neighbors who are opposed to the project to recognize that this is an incredibly necessary first step in tackling our homelessness issues effectively. Even though the City of Lodi is well run and fiscally responsible, we simply don't have the funds to tackle our homelessness issue without assistance, and we need to take advantage of opportunities like this to demonstrate movement in the right direction so we can acquire additional funding.

Again, we cannot let fear blind us from seeing that the HEAP Tiny Homes Project is a benefit to our community. It helps struggling, deserving, low income Lodi families out when they need it most, it enables us to take advantage of the \$1,250,000 grant money that we have been awarded that we would otherwise lose, and it makes us eligible for further funding that we so desperately need in order to finally tackle the homelessness issue that we have been grappling with for so long.

Lodi simply cannot afford to not build the HEAP Tiny Homes Project. As a homeowner who regularly deals with the challenges of our less reputable homeless community right next to my home, I urge you to please ensure that the HEAP Tiny Homes Project is built. I look forward to the day when families visiting Emerson Park can use the playground, picnic and restroom facilities without having to worry about disreputable individuals constantly around. The only way to clean up our town is to make steady progress towards tackling the homelessness issue, and the HEAP Tiny Homes Project is an absolutely necessary first step in making that happen.

With much respect,

Anne Margo Cortes

Jane Wagner-Tyack
Steve Tyack
145 S. Rose St.
Lodi, CA 95240
September 1, 2020

Dear Councilmembers Mounce, Nakanishi, Chandler, and Kuehne:

Despite its reputation in San Joaquin County for being hyper-conservative, Lodi has long been forward-thinking in a variety of important ways. An example of that forward-thinking mindset is the current plan to use HEAP funding to provide six tiny homes as transitional/permanent housing for residents who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. This plan is well thought-out and deserves a chance to work.

Over the years, the Lodi City Council has overseen many initiatives that were controversial and difficult at the time but that turned out to be wise. Just a few examples:

- Lodi water planners have for decades taken the long view of what would be necessary to ensure our water security, given the situation with groundwater and surface water resources, so we now have a water treatment plant and have reduced our dependence on groundwater by up to 50 percent.
- We had a toxic plume that is mostly cleaned up now because the City Council took the advice of then-City Attorney Steve Schwabauer and agreed that responsibility for paying to fix the plume couldn't be shifted to anyone else.
- In the 21 years that my husband and I have lived here, Lodi has never finished a fiscal year in the red, unlike some other cities in the County.
- Fiscally conservative staff have developed a pension stabilization plan to meet public retirement obligations, something that very few cities in California or anywhere else have been able to do.
- We have a police department that understands and practices community policing strategies that, if practiced nationwide, would have averted much of the violence we are now seeing in other parts of the country.

Lodi's city government does so many things right that those of us who benefit from living in a well-run city neglect to praise decision makers. The citizens that the City Council usually hears from are a vocal, unhappy minority.

Regarding the HEAP Project: Some nicely cared-for homes on North Stockton Street across from the project site already have an eyesore across the street from them at the back of the National Guard Armory. Unfortunately, this is not for the most part a residential area, and with Lawrence Park, it is already a gathering place for people who are homeless. It is hard to imagine that a project managed and maintained by the Housing Authority of San Joaquin County would be more of an eyesore or more

of a danger to the neighborhood; more likely, it would be an improvement. Similarly, it is hard to imagine that such a project would be more of a threat to boys and girls sports taking place on nearby playing fields.

We don't live on the East Side of Lodi, and it would be easy for someone to criticize our support for a project that wouldn't be "in our backyard." But broadly speaking, how should the City deal equitably with residents of the East Side? A place to begin is by recognizing that this area—near the freeway, with mature shade trees and proximity to downtown—is already a draw for people who for whatever reason are unsheltered. Logically, we cannot generalize about the reasons why they are unsheltered.

California has a huge homeless population partly because California has very high housing costs. There is good evidence that most of the homeless people in Lodi are not from somewhere else. Some of them are our neighbors who have been unable to negotiate an economic system that can be challenging even for the most capable of us.

Some Lodians (but not, I am sure, most) would be willing to bulldoze all the homeless people out through the Delta and the Estuary and send them through the Golden Gate into the Pacific Ocean. Like the smoke in the air or the deafening electronic political bickering, we just want it all to go away.

But people who have been unsuccessful in becoming economically, socially, or mentally stable are not going to just go away. No matter what our religious upbringing, on some level, we all know that, and we all know that we cannot just abandon them—not those who are most difficult to interact with, and certainly not those who are trying valiantly to get on their feet. The answer, not just for them but for the whole community, is to treat them like fellow citizens rather than like refuse.

The HEAP Tiny Homes Project is a small step in the right direction of civic responsibility. We encourage the City Council to take that step.

Sincerely,

Jane Wagner-Tyack
Steve Tyack