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Sent: 8/24/2022 3:13:55 PM
To: jmilller2@ashevillenc.gov
Cc:
Subject: FW: Ramada

Maybe Emily can speak to these concerns?

From: Kari Smith <keepeastashevillesafe@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 2:52 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: Ramada

Hello City Council,
I am writing on behalf of myself an Oakley resident and our group E.A.S.T. I am devastated that the Ramada will be bought by Shangri la and ran by Step Up. The placement of a program like this in a residential area is reckless and unbelievable.

We as residents, business owners, teachers, elders and especially children were not part of your decision making. I applaud Ms. Mosley for thinking of us before her vote, but the rest of you are respond sible for what is about to come

. I am sure none of you live here in Oakley or East asheville because you would have seen the mess that was made when the Ramada was being used as a low barrier shelter. People died, people were beaten and robbed, houses were broken into and theft was happening everyday. The school had drugs on the grounds, people sleeping and doing drugs on the buses, they even had to put fencing up to keep drugs off and area were children eat lunch outside. Shopping carts lined our streets, trash and needles were every where. People high on fentanyl and meth roaming our streets with weapons, even machetes. Businesses at River Ridge were held up by gun point and changing hours for the safety of customers and employees.

This is were we live and pay to live here. This is were our children learn and play. This is the most unfair decision that has been made in my 12 years living here. We deserve better. How can you put a shelter of this capacity so close to a school, a 20 minute walk. So close to the 3,000 neighbors literally sharing a fence to this place.

We know so much more than you would want to know that happened at the Ramada, from drugs being delt by employees to the prostitution and the leaked information that we are taking to the news. Step Up is the same program, so you cannot tell us it will change. We have called businesses and schools around their other programs and they have the dame problems we witnessed when the Ramada was running.

Our group will continue to fight and show the ugly truths on what goes on at the Ramada and the new shelter, we will continue our documentary. We will personally be going door to door and letting our neighbors know who made this decision for our neighborhood especially before the next election for your seats. Know you will be responsible for the next murder, or overdose, or 90 year old woman being beaten so badly she had to go to the hospital. You let us down to save your political careers.

Shame on you.