

Good morning. I hope this message finds you well.

For the Clerks: Please include this email as written correspondence regarding item 6.1 "Addressing Gaps in Daytime Sheltering..." on the Agenda for the May 27th meeting. Thank you.

It is my understanding that some Councillors are convinced (or at least have a strong preference) that the services to be provided NOT be located in the downtown area. I don't think that is realistic.

- The basic physical, organizational and human resources needed already exist downtown and most of them (OW, ODSP, etc.) cannot be relocated.
- If not impossible, it would be prohibitively expensive and time consuming to recreate these resources elsewhere.
- Unless the City/County is prepared to provide free and fully accessible transportation to and from the new site, relocation is creating additional barriers to service.
- Even if relocation of these services is successful, if the goal in doing so is to minimize contact between users of these services and other visitors to downtown it will almost certainly fail. Folks who want to congregate downtown will continue doing so.

I'm not opposed to considering the option of providing these services outside downtown. My concern is that Council may make locating the services outside downtown a requirement of the RFP. In my opinion this would be a grave mistake.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Kevin Bowman