

From: Lenny Snellman <lenny.snellman@gmail.com>
Date: April 1, 2024 at 3:18:49 PM CDT
To: "Vesel, Margaret M." <mvesel@larkinhoffman.com>
Cc: Jenny Mason <Jenny.Mason@co.washington.mn.us>, Cader and Cameron Howard <choward@fpc-stillwater.org>
Subject: Washington County's Emergency Housing Services Building request

This Message Is External to Larkin Hoffman.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in my role as the chair of the Mission Ministry Team of the First Presbyterian Church (FPC) of Stillwater in support of the \$5 million request for Washington County's Emergency Housing Services Building project. First Presbyterian Church is located directly across the street from the Washington County Government Center and the county jail. As a result, we interact with many people struggling with emergency housing insecurity, especially individuals. Our location has made our church realize the huge need for emergency housing. Recently, our pastor, the reverend Cader Howard, had to pay for a Lyft driver to take a homeless woman to Bemidji, the closest shelter that could accommodate her. She was one of numerous homeless Washington County residents that had to seek shelter outside of our county. Although Washington County has no permanent emergency housing capacity for adults without children, the need for such housing is tremendous and often not recognized by the public. FPC has been privileged to host the PIT (Point in Time count) Stop event in cooperation with Washington County, other local churches, and many non profits three times since January, 2023. We look forward to continuing to host future PIT Stop events that provide one stop support and resources to those in need, especially those experiencing homelessness. The Washington County Emergency Housing Services Building's proposed location will allow their clients to conveniently access these supportive events.

Thus, I would strongly support the county's request for support and encourage the legislature to recognize the importance of the project by providing funding to help it come to fruition.

Sincerely,
Leonard Snellman, MD
Chair, Mission Ministry Team
First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater, MN
lennysnellman@gmail.com

From: John Hodler <johnhodler@gmail.com>

Date: April 1, 2024 at 7:31:56 PM CDT

To: "Vesel, Margaret M." <mvesel@larkinhoffman.com>

Subject: Support for HF 3568: \$5,000,000 funding request for Wa. Co. Emergency Housing Services Building

To: Committee Chair Representative Fue Lee and members of the House Capital Investment Committee,

I am a citizen of Washington County and ask you to support HF 3568, which is the County's request for \$5,000,000 designated to construct an Emergency Housing Services building at the Washington County Government site in Stillwater, Minnesota.

Presently, Washington County does not have a permanent building to provide emergency housing capacity for individuals. Here is Wa. Co. capacity compared to other Minnesota counties: Washington-0; Dakota-45; Ramsey-500; Scott/Carver-20; Anoka-66; Hennepin-824.

The Emergency Housing Services Building (EHSB) will have a capacity of 30. It will provide safe shelter and services, the first steps to finding permanent housing for families, individuals and seniors experiencing homelessness.

The Washington County Commissioners have committed \$7 million to build the EHSB. I ask the MN Legislature to provide the remaining \$5 million so this project (already in the preliminary stages) can be completed.

Sincerely,

John Hodler