

PUBLIC COMMENT

Regarding: 2022-MSS-BRD-00007, PUBLIC FORUM

Received Date: August 29, 2022

Received By: Madson Matthias, Associate Planner, CPDI

Comment Received:

“Hello,

My name is Joel Jasperson and my family and I own Rangitsch Brothers RV and Home Center at 2001 W Broadway. Our business has been owned by the same family and at the same location since 1958. I’m writing you today to share our concerns regarding the temporary housing shelter that will be placed along our SE property line.

I recognize the need for temporary housing for those who are homeless and appreciate the efforts of local governments to address this. I am also concerned about the security and safety of our property, employees and customers. For several years now there has been a substantial number of homeless along Mullan Rd, Reserve St and West Broadway. The unfortunate reality is that some who are homeless also struggle with drug and alcohol addiction. We often find drug paraphernalia and empty alcohol containers along and within the fence surrounding our property. We regularly experience the theft of propane tanks off of recreational vehicles on our lot. I suspect these may sometimes end up at the current temporary shelter behind Walmart off of Mullan. We have at times found people sleeping in both recreational vehicles and manufactured homes on our lot.

My concern with the temporary housing being placed next door to Rangitsch Brothers will mean an increase in these sort of incidences. I would imagine that acres of Trailers and Manufactured homes might look like an opportune place to spend the night to someone who is denied access to the temporary housing because they were under the influence of drugs and alcohol. Our concern isn’t just for property that might be damaged or stolen, but also interactions someone intoxicated might have with an employee or customer. Many homeless not only struggle with substance abuse but also have mental health issues. We often have families with young children browsing our lot looking at recreational merchandise. I worry what sort of encounters might take place if someone is sleeping off a hangover or worse in our lot. We currently have a chain link fence that surrounds our property. I understand there will be a chain link fence around the shelter. Will that incorporate our existing fence? If that’s the case I don’t believe it will act as much of a deterrent. Will there be security similar to what is used at other shelters in town? I appreciate the opportunity to provide comment regarding this shelter and hope that the County will consider our concerns regarding this Shelter. Thank you for your time and consideration,

Joel Jasperson

Rangitsch Brothers LLC”