

P—Freedom Teams—Homelessness—IS IT TRUE...? (4)

The NANN—Neighbors Assisting Neighbors in Need (NIN)—are advocates for those NIN in our community, wanting the best for them. The NANN has many questions about the sheltering program in Hyannis, because it seems the program may not be as good as it could be for the NIN, nor for neighbors in the community. Here are some of the questions:

IS IT TRUE...

#	Question
1.00	Hours of Operation
1.01	...that everyone who stays in the shelter must leave by 7 am each morning?
1.02	...that those who must leave in the morning include those with walkers, canes and those in wheelchairs?
1.03	...that about a quarter of the NIN (10 or 12) return at 8:30 for the Day Program, which consists of watching television and maybe playing Bingo.
1.04	...that three-quarters are out in the community through the day, some perhaps at work, others trying to meet their needs in the local community.
1.05	...that all are required to return at about 3:30, walking through the streets to return, unless they have a notice from work of later hours?
1.06	...that High Point is opening a 24-hour program in Independence Park to no push back from the community because it is 24-hour care?
2.00	Place of Origin
2.01	...that a NIN is able to come to Hyannis from every village in Barnstable, every town on the Cape, every town in Massachusetts, from other states, and from other countries?
2.02	...that state funds require the shelter to serve anyone who comes to Hyannis and to the shelter, and so, the shelter cannot serve those from Barnstable only?
2.03	...that as funds are being raised throughout the Cape for the renovation, that towns are being encouraged to think of the shelter as a regional solution, and to send their NIN to Hyannis?
2.04	...that in 2024, 54 people came from places other than Hyannis, greatly overburdening the demand on housing and services in the Hyannis area?
2.05	...that in the 40 years that the shelter has been in Hyannis, if 50 is an average of non-Hyannis NIN coming into this village, that the shelter could have brought 2000 NIN into Hyannis?
2.06	...that Hyannis is carrying an inordinate burden of care for NIN compared to all other villages of Barnstable and all towns of the Cape, in part because of the free bed and free meals of the shelter?

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2.07	...that Portland, ME has a shelter model that serves only NIN from Portland, and that, with planning, Barnstable could do the same?
3.00	Education
3.01	...that there is no clear evidence of a classroom curriculum?
4.00	Length of Stay
4.01	...that some NIN have stayed for up to 18 months, one even up to three years, meaning these beds are not available for other NIN?
5.00	Population
5.01	...that the program puts all categories of NIN together, some of whom are vulnerable, some of whom are volatile, into one environment, so that, for example, the elderly are with drug abusers, and a woman with a mental illness is vulnerable to abuse?
6.00	Elderly
6.01	...that the population is aging, which causes questions about the effectiveness of agencies intended to help the elderly?
7.00	Youth
7.01	...that youth, who may only want to be out from under the demands of parents, are allowed to come for nothing, no payments, to eat and sleep, and, perhaps, play through the day?
8.00	Mental Illness
8.01	...that those with the challenges of mental illness are in a chaotic environment that adds to their challenges, bringing into question the effectiveness of agencies working with this population?
9.00	Substance Abuse—Alcohol and Drugs
9.01	...that the NIN who struggles with alcoholism is allowed to come to the shelter under the influence, is allowed to sober up on the foyer, can then come in for a meal and a bed, and is allowed to go out the next day to repeat this behavior, which may include using what funds he or she may have to buy more alcohol?
9.02	...that there is not true intervention for those struggling with alcohol, and that the current program may actually be worsening their addiction?
9.03	...that NIN, when they are coming into the shelter, are told, at least sometimes, to hide their drugs and paraphernalia outside before coming in, which could make these items accessible to children or youth in the area?
10.00	Sex Offenders

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10.01	...that there might, at times, be sex offenders among the population, and that there is no alerting the community to this fact?
11.00	Workers
11.01	...that it is being claimed that 50% of those in the shelter are working, and yet they are paying nothing for their rent or meals?
11.02	...that there is a program in the community that provides housing for workers, and yet workers continue to stay in the shelter having to pay nothing?
12.00	Security
12.01	...that NsIN are closely checked when they come into the shelter, which includes using a wand to insure they have no paraphernalia or weapons, and yet these are the same NIN going out to our community every day?
13.00	Emergency Responses
13.01	...that in 2025 there were about 180 calls from the shelter for Rescue, nearly one call for every 2 days, which is not the case for other programs housing NsIN?
13.02	...that there are 3 to 4 calls, concerning issues with NsIN who are homeless, to the police every day in the summer?
14.00	Schools
14.01	...that there are five schools in close proximity to the 460 West Main St. location (including the Chabad) putting hundreds of students at risk?
14.02	...that the Barnstable School Committee does not consider this relocation relevant to their work, although 100's of students could be put at risk?
14.03	...that the School Committee is considering an addition to SRO (Security Resource Officer) staff to counter this risk, which would add to the costs of the schooling?
14.04	...that a members or members of the school committee has met or have been meeting with agencies affiliated with the shelter for over a year without notifying the other school committee members?
14.05	...that one of the school committee members may have a conflict of interest because of this member's association with those agencies affiliated with the shelter?
15.00	Businesses
15.01	...that one nearby business had to hire a security person for the morning, from 6 am to 11 am, seven days a week, to handle the influx from the shelter?
15.02	...that this business has had overdoses in the bathroom of that business?

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15.03	...that this business has had to give no trespass orders?
15.04	...that this business has gone to the shelter and was told that this was not “their problem.”
15.05	...that another business, serving children, had a man who was incontinent come into the business because he needed a bathroom, who came out of the bathroom fully exposed?
15.06	...that a church, near the shelter, has had to lock its doors while they are in their Sunday morning worship because of the violence from a NIN at their facility?
15.07	...that some NsIN choose to ride for hours in the Regional Transit Authority B-Bus in order to be off the streets?
16.00	Churches
16.01	...that there were about 180 NIN from Hyannis (how is this verified?) in 2024, that there are about 150 churches in Barnstable, and that if “each one helped one,” if each church helped one NIN, that this could solve the homelessness challenge?
17.00	Triage
17.01	...that Catholic Charities conducts a triage but this does not include finding a solution in the home community of the NIN, instead sending them to the nearest shelter?
17.02	...that Catholic Charities is not, and yet could be, working with local churches to find town-based, home community solutions for the NIN, and instead of sending them to shelters which may be a distance from their homes?
18.00	Tax-exempt
18.01	...that there are many non-profits in Hyannis, many of which could be expected to work with the town to better serve, in a coordinated way, the NsIN in the Hyannis community?
19.00	Aversion Impact
19.01	...that an impact of the program, that puts NIN out on the street each morning, is creating an aversion to the NIN, that the NIN is not the problem, but that it is the program that draws NsIN to the area, and is then creating a daily survival situation for the NIN in the community, causing many problems in the community, the result of which is that the community is wrongly faulting the NIN, when it should be faulting the program?
20.00	Location
20.01	...that the site that is being considered for a shelter could better serve the community if it were apartments for, for example, workers?
20.02	...that the community would help locate the shelter if the program were improved and the community was included?